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LD0512131788 [Editorial Report]

Israel

Likud Coalition—Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has the support of 65 Knesset members after Degel Hatora and Agudat Yisra'el switched their support to the Likud over the weekend, Jerusalem radio reported.

Agudat Yisra'el's decision was determined at a 4 December meeting of the Council of Torah Sages.

Likud representatives arrived at the council meeting with a document signed by a majority of Likud ministers containing a commitment to the "Who Is a Jew" amendment and other matters, the radio noted.

Internal differences within the Alignment were highlighted by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statement to IDF radio that the Labor Party Bureau's decision to reject entering a broad-based government with Shamir was a "historical mistake."

Rabin also told Jerusalem radio that the bureau's decision in this regard was swayed by "a dirty trick" performed by "Peres' poodle," Knesset member Beilin.

Rabin and several other Labor ministers had earlier refused to ratify the Labor Party's agreement with Agudat Yisra'el, the radio noted.

Relations With USSR—Israel's relations with the Soviet Union became "a few degrees warmer" after the Israeli decision to deport four Soviet citizens who hijacked a plane to Israel on 2 December, IDF radio reported.

The Soviet foreign minister's reception of the head of the Israeli consular delegation in Moscow to thank the Israeli Government for detaining and sending back the hijackers "has a meaning beyond the current event," Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres stated in remarks broadcast by the radio.

Noting that the meeting was held in a "remarkably good atmosphere," IDF radio pointed out that during the hijack affair the Soviet consular delegation in Tel Aviv and the Israeli delegation in Moscow "acted like real embassies."

Regarding Israel's decision to deport the hijackers, Peres told the radio that this followed a written Soviet assurance that they will not be executed.

At a press conference carried by Jerusalem radio shortly after the arrival of the hijacked plane and the surrender of the hijackers, Defense Minister Rabin expressed "astonishment" that the USSR had failed to prevent the group of "bandits" from leaving Soviet territory.

Nir Affair—Responding to press reports that the late 'Amiran Nir conducted antiterror operations with Colonel Oliver North in accordance with a secret Israeli-U.S. agreement, Shim'on Peres said he knows "absolutely nothing" of such an agreement with President Reagan, Jerusalem radio reported.

On Nir's death in a plane crash in Mexico, the radio said that sabotage has been totally ruled out.

Territories—An Arab youth was killed by IDF fire in a clash near Nabulus 3 December, Jerusalem radio reported.

Twelve other people were wounded in clashes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip over the weekend, according to IDF and Jerusalem radios.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat met with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Cairo 4 December, MENA reported, noting that they discussed the broad outlines of the speech 'Arafat will deliver at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in Geneva 13 December.

At a subsequent press conference cited by the agency, Mubarak said he believes that 'Arafat's speech will clearly spell out that peace in the Middle East will only be possible when the Palestinian issue has been solved.

Meanwhile, 'Arafat's adviser Bassam Abu Sharif viewed the decision to transfer the UNGA discussions on the Palestinian issue to Geneva as a victory for the Palestinian cause and a "condemnation" of U.S. policy, Radio Monte Carlo noted.

Lebanon

The decision of the East Beirut authorities to close the Museum crossing point between East and West Beirut caused fears of a bread supply crisis in the western sector, Beirut radio reported.

Prime Minister Salim al-Huss denounced the closure of the crossing and disclosed that his administration has decided to import flour as soon as possible.

In southern Lebanon, two people were killed and seven wounded in a 4 December artillery bombardment of the Al-Nabatiyah area by Israeli and South Lebanese Army artillery, Voice of National Resistance radio stated.

An Israeli naval patrol intercepted a yacht near the port of Tyre and seized three Lebanese teenagers, according to AFP.

IDF radio said the three crew members were detained for interrogation because the Lebanese vessel had been involved in the transfer of "terrorists" from Cyprus to southern Lebanon.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Syria-Jordan—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad received Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i 4 December, Damascus radio reported.

Diplomatic sources in Amman cited by Radio Monte Carlo said the talks were to concentrate on Jordanian efforts to relax the atmosphere between Egypt and Syria.

Egypt-Libya—The Egyptian civil aviation authority announced that Libyan planes can now fly over Egyptian airspace and a request for landing rights at Cairo International Airport has also been granted, MENA reported.

Libya-Chad

The Chadian minister of information led a "high-level" delegation to Libya 4 December, Ndjamena radio reported.

He was carrying a message from President Hissein Habre to Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on further improving relations and finding ways to "deepen the reconciliation" between the two countries.

President Habre said in interviews reported by Ndjamena radio that Libya has repeatedly violated the cease-fire agreement and is massing troops on the eastern border of Chad.

Iran

The Constitution is a "great national asset" but certain "defects" and "vague points" in it need to be corrected, President 'Ali Khamene'i asserted in a Friday sermon broadcast by Tehran radio.

Examples of such problems are the Constitution's failure to make any provision to resolve deadlocks between the Majlis and Council of Guardians and its lack of clarity in defining the overall policymaking authority, the president said.

Khamene'i welcomed Ayatollah Khomeyni's move as "chief jurisconsult" in establishing an assembly to resolve disputes between the Majlis and Council of Guardians, saying this "augments and reinforces" the Constitution.

However, he added that there is also a need to appoint a center, assembly, or organization to define the country's policies.

Policies should not be "confused and contradictory," he said, and the country needs "a source of authority."

Khamene'i also referred to the Palestinian issue in his sermon, accusing the PLO leadership of "an immense and unprecedented act of treachery" in accepting Resolution 242 "in return for nothing" and in giving up rights to "three-quarters of the Palestinian homeland."

The Palestinian issue was discussed during a 3 December meeting in Damascus between Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati and the Syrian foreign minister, IRNA reported.

The two sides welcomed the idea of forming an independent Palestinian state in any part of the occupied lands but condemned "compromising moves toward recognition of the Zionist regime."

Besharati also held talks with Syrian President al-Asad, IRNA stated, noting that current developments in Lebanon were among the topics discussed.

Besharati subsequently arrived in Beirut to hold contacts aimed at reconciling the Amal Movement and Hizballah, according to Voice of the Oppressed, a clandestine pro-Hizballah radio station.

In other foreign policy developments, IRNA reported that the British Embassy was reopened in Tehran 4 December.

The British charge d'affaires noted that Britain and Iran will exchange ambassadors next year, IRNA added.

Meanwhile, Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Mohammad Javad Iravani arrived in Moscow for talks on bilateral economic cooperation, the agency reported.

Afghanistan

Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov and mujahidin alliance leader Burhanuddin Rabbani held talks in Saudi Arabia 3-4 December to discuss "all aspects of the Afghan problem," the Saudi press agency reported.

The Afghan Foreign Ministry issued a statement on the talks, carried by Kabul radio, expressing approval and support for the meetings.

President Najibullah, in an interview on Kabul radio, reiterated his government's readiness to meet with the mujahidin for direct talks.

He disclosed that Afghan officials contacted resistance leader Ahmad Shah Mas'ud regarding the need to hold talks on ending the war and various solutions were proposed, but no reply was received.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry issued a statement 2 December pointing to the "urgent" need to convene an international conference on Afghanistan to establish the country's neutrality and demilitarization, TASS reported.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by TASS denied that there is any relationship between the meetings in Saudi Arabia and the international conference.

Pakistan

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto outlined the program of her administration in a 2 December address to the nation broadcast by Islamabad radio, announcing her intention to restore the 1973 constitution, release political prisoners, end restrictions on labor and student unions, and create a free press and broadcasting system.

She stressed the need to restore the "credibility" of the media by dissolving the National Press Trust and ending the system of "press advice."

Bhutto, who referred to herself as "your sister," also promised to prevent "forced labor," protect minorities, and cancel laws prejudicial to the rights of women.

She emphasized that the Pakistan People's Party gives "high priority" to maintaining highly trained, equipped, and motivated defense forces.

Contending that the policies of the Ziaul Haq era were designed to perpetuate personal authority, the new prime minister said her government will seek to heal the "wounds" sustained since 1977.

She acknowledged that the current situation is "grave" and claimed that previous economic policies have brought the country to the brink of bankruptcy.

On foreign affairs, Bhutto maintained that the "short-sighted" policy of the last 11 years created "dangers around us unnecessarily."

She affirmed her intention to strengthen relations with the United States while at the same time improving relations with the USSR.

She also expressed hope that the Indian prime minister's forthcoming visit to Pakistan will lead to a reduction in tension between the two countries.

Bhutto's new 10-man cabinet, announced by Islamabad radio 4 December, retains Sahabzada Yaqub Khan as foreign minister.

Bhutto told journalists the previous day that she was asking Yaqub Khan to stay on in her new government because of her desire to maintain continuity in the present policy on Afghanistan, the radio noted.

Yaqub Khan subsequently confirmed that for the time being there will be no basic change in Pakistan's foreign policy, especially regarding Afghanistan, the radio said.

As for the other ministers, the information minister noted that the new cabinet represents the "new generation" and includes "professional experts and technocrats" who were involved in "political struggle" during the past 11 years, according to the radio.

Palestinian Affairs

'Abbas Threatens 'More Extreme Approach' to U.S.

NC0512113588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Palestinian Liberation Front [PLF] leader Muhammad 'Abbas, alias Abu al-'Abbas, who was responsible for the hijacking of the Italian cruiseship 'Achille Lauro,' has threatened that Palestinian organizations will adopt a more extreme approach toward the United States due to its refusal to grant PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa.

He said the PNC's acceptance of UN Resolutions 242 and 338 does not mean recognizing Israel, bu rather the Palestinians' willingness to embark on political moves.

Urges Response To 'Just Demands'

LD0512094088 Kuwait KUNA in English 0806 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 5 (KUNA)—The U.S. invasion of Grenada, bombing of civilians in Libya and backing of Israeli raids against Lebanon are enough proof of Washington's terrorism, a senior Palestinian official was quoted as saying here Monday.

Muhammad 'Abbas, member of the PLO Executive Committee, told daily AL-SIYASAH that Washington was the last nation in the world to speak of terrorism while its history is full of such state-sponsored terrorism.

'Abbas, better know as Abu 'Abbas, recalled that the Reagan administration, that denied PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to address the New York-based United Nations on the allegations that he condoned terrorism, should first look into its own history.

The PLO official underlined that Washington which cited "my presence in the Executive Committee as the reason for not granting 'Arafat a visa ignores the fact that the American Justice Department had cancelled arrest warrants against me a year ago for lack of evidence supporting my prosecution."

Describing the Palestine National Council resolutions last month in Algeria as "more than moderate," Abu 'Abbas noted that only the Israel-backed U.S. rejected the decisions in a bid to check "the Palestinian peace offensive."

"Washington should better respond to the legitimate and just demands of the Palestinian people if it wishes to preserve its citizens and interests," Abu 'Abbas warned.

Abu 'Abbas, who is also secretary general of the Palestinian Liberation Front, said that his front, though having reservations over Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, had agreed to the PNC's political communique.

He explained that approving the two resolutions within the political communique was linked to endorsing the Palestinian people's legimate rights.

Abu 'Abbas said that the resolutions were approved as a precondition for the convening of the international Mid-east peace conference and nothing more. He asserted that the move does not mean a recognition of Israel.

Asked on his own scenario for the creation of the independent Palestine state on national soil, Abu 'Abbas said that Israel will unilaterally withdraw from heavily-populated areas in the occupied territories and will maintain presence in certain strategic spots to avoid casualties.

With the continuation of the uprising, coupled by military cross border raids and diplomatic activity, Abu 'Abbas added international troops might be sent as a prelude to allowing the Palestinian people to exercise its political authority.

However, the PLO official highlighted that such a situation will not be easily reached and expressed the opinion that changes on the ground will take place before the convening of the international conference.

The Jordanian and Palestinian peoples will choose for themselves their future relations, Abu 'Abbas said, and added that Syria did not recognize the Palestine state so far due to its relations with the PLO. He did not elaborate.

George Bush and Yitzhaq Shamir's elections to president and premier in the States and Israel respectively will entail continuation of the arrogant, aggressive policies of both parties against struggle of the Palestinian people, Abu 'Abbas predicted.

The PLO official, meanwhile, underscored the importance of Egypt in the region, describing Cairo's role as "basic" at times of war and peace.

Restoration of relations between Egypt and Arab countries, well known for their head-on clashes with imperialist countries, will foster the overall Arab backing to the Palestine cause and share in Cairo's remoteness from the Camp David accords with Israel.

Asked on efforts for the reunification of this front, Abu 'Abbas said that a number of meetings had been arranged with late Tala't Yaqub, who died last month following PNC session in Algiers, that will be coronated by a general congress in February 1989.

He said that the congress will crown the reunification efforts that the late Tala't, who is secretary general of the other branch of the Palestinian Liberation Front, had played a great role in ensuring their success.

PLO Official Calls UN Move 'Victory'
JN0312143788 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1240 GMT 3 Dec 88

[By Faruq Shukri]

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Dec (WAKH)—An authorized Palestinian official said today that the the vote in favor of moving the UN General Assembly [UNGA] debate to Europe represents "a clear-cut and direct support for the independent Palestinian state and the recent PNC resolutions".

In a statement to WAKH, 'Azzam al-Ahmad, director of the PLO's Baghdad office, said the results of the voting can be considered "not only as a victory for the Palestinian people and the Arab nation, but also as a victory for the will of liberation and independence throughout the entire world".

Yesterday, the UNGA adopted with an overwhelming majority of 152 votes against 2 votes with Britain abstaining a resolution calling for moving the UNGA Palestine question debate to Geneva to enable PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to participate in the meetings of this debate.

This decision came about after the United States persisted in its refusal to grant 'Arafat an entry visa—a matter that prevented the conducting of the Palestine question debate as scheduled on 29 November and that dictated that this debate be postponed until 12 December.

Al-Ahmad said that the UNGA resolution is a clear evidence of the world's rejection of the U.S. course represented by exploiting the presence of the UN headquarters on U.S. territory to impose its hegemony and its conditions on the people of the world.

Al-Ahmad stressed that the the voting affirmed anew that the Arab nation can, when united, accomplish further victories for its just cause.

He said: We look forward to the attainment of further unity and Arab solidarity which help to impose the conditions of peace on the United States and Israel.

This is the fourth time the UNGA will hold its meetings in Europe since the establishment of the world body in 1945.

Concluding his statement, Al-Ahmad said that the results of the voting asserted the international community's desire to achieve peace and bring about a just and durable settlement that will help regain the Palestinian people's rights to statehood.

He added that this voting also emphasized the international community's support for the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination and to establish an independent Palestinian state.

He went on to say that the resolution constitutes a victory for the results of the PNC session which was held in Algiers in mid-November.

Abu Sharif on 'Political Significance' of Vote
JN0312144788 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] The United Nations General Assembly has decided to transfer its discussions to Geneva from 13 to 15 December to hear Mr 'Arafat's speech within the discussion of the Palestinian issue.

In an unprecedented vote, 154 states voted for the decision, with Britain abstaining and the United States and Israel voting against.

This decision constitutes a victory for the Palestinian cause and a condemnation of the U.S. policy. It has a valuable political significance and is not confined only to legal reactions against the U.S. violation of the headquarters agreement. This was stated by Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to the PLO Executive Committee chairman.

He hoped that the new U.S. Administration will take into consideration the international community's stand in solidarity with Palestinian rights and negotiate on an equal footing with the two main contenders in the Middle East dispute; namely, the PLO, and Israel.

PFLP Asks Arabs to Withdraw Envoys From U.S.
JN0312184888 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, has regarded the UN decision to transfer discussions of the Palestinian issue from New York to Geneva as a victory for the Palestinian cause and a condemnation of the U.S. policy.

The DFLP welcomed the resolution and so did the PFLP, which asked the Arab states not to allow George Shultz to enter their territories and to withdraw the Arab ambassadors from the United States.

PNC Speaker Urges Withdrawal of Arab Envoys

JN0412184588 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 3 Dec 88 pp 1, 20

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih has said the PNC will be called to convene if the intransigent U.S. stand, which refuses to recognize the Palestinian state and the PNC's recent resolutions, remains as it is.

In a statement to AL-WATAN in Amman, Shaykh al-Sa'ih said the PNC's recent resolutions do not mean recognition of Israel and that such recognition depends on the negotiations and their outcome. He pointed out the PLO will continue all forms of struggle until the achievement of the goals for which it was established. These goals are led by the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih denied that the PNC's recent resolutions in Algiers were a relinquishment of the national charter. He asserted that the Palestinian leadership will not do this.

He said: We agreed on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 because they are the only way to participate in an international conference for peace.

Al-Sa'ih urged the Arab states to withdraw their ambassadors from the United States until the U.S. Administration changes its stands that are hostile to the Arab cause. He emphasized the importance of Arab solidarity in the interest of our central cause.

Al-Tarazi Says PLO Recognizes Israel

JN0412062388 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] In a statement to the Saudi paper AL-YAWM, Zuhdi al-Tarazi, PLO representative at the United Nations, has stated that the PLO recognizes Israel's existence.

He added: We admit that Israel exists and is carrying out occupation. We also admit this occupation must end.

Al-Tarazi added: There is something called Israel and those who rebut this cannot deny we have been fighting it over the past 40 years.

He added the Palestinians will pursue the uprising to gradually attain their objective of creating an atmosphere in Israel that will force it to take an initiative in its own interests and those of the region.

Habash: Statement Does Not Recognize Israel

NC0412135388 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] PFLP Secretary General Dr George Habash has emphasized that the purpose of the declaration of the Palestinian state is the uprising of the masses in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and, consequently, the establishment of the Palestinian state in this part of Palestinian soil.

He added: This step makes it incumbent upon the PLO leadership abroad to declare the state and to wage a political diplomatic battle on the international level so the struggle of our kinfolk inside the occupied territories will merge with the PLO struggle.

The PFLP leader urged each Arab citizen to read the PNC resolutions. He noted that the PNC has formed two committees: the uprising committee and the political committee. The first committee reiterates the significance of the armed struggle and appeals to the Arab countries to open their borders for the Palestinian fighters.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-ANBA' [not further identified], the PFLP leader noted that the PLO's objective for convening an international conference is to establish the state, the right to return, and the right to self-determination.

He added: We know that the conference cannot grant us our full historical and natural rights. But this conference should work out a solution for all aspects of the Palestinian problem.

Dr Habash reiterated that the PNC statement does not recognize Israel. The statement, he added, recognizes Resolution 242 and even this could be debated, but from our own standpoint.

Hawatimah Calls for Provisional Government

JN0512065088 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] In the first call by a Palestinian leader following the Algiers PNC session, DFLP Secretary General General Nayif Hawatimah believes that the time has come to form a provisional government that will assume all the Palestinian people's political and diplomatic responsibilities.

In an interview with AFP in Damascus, Hawatimah added that this government must be a broad national coalition comprising the representatives of the PLO factions, in addition to national figures from the occupied territories and the diaspora who are committed to the PLO's resolutions.

'Atallah: U.S. Threw 'Arafat 'in Trash Basket'

JN0512104888 Amman AL-QUDS in Arabic
5 Dec 88 pp 1, 15

["Text" of speech by 'Atallah 'Atallah, commander in chief of the Corrective Movement in Fatah and the PLO, identified by his nom de guerre Abu al-Za'im, at "a popular gathering"—date, place not given]

[Text] I should first speak about the farce of the media clamor 'Arafat has created before his promised trip to the UN headquarters. I would like to say the following: We in the Corrective Movement are not surprised by the situation that 'Arafat has reached, although we were not surprised by his fumblings throughout the past 20 years.

At a time when Arab and international circumstances were appropriate and when the Arab and friendly calls asked 'Arafat to announce a political program accepted in Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas—a program in accordance with which the PLO will guide our people to their legitimate rights—these calls were confronted with 'Arafat's intransigence and strong rejection. 'Arafat even placed the response to these calls within the framework of taboos.

The Palestinian people as well as the Arabs and friends were surprised when 'Arafat made his dearest wish and greatest objective—that is, to be accepted by the U.S. Administration, even if this would be accomplished at the expense of the Palestinian people's cause.

The U.S. Administration was aware of 'Arafat's intention. Through its channels, the U.S. Administration decorated for 'Arafat recognition of Israel, strangling of the uprising, and explicit and direct acceptance of Resolution No 242 by the highest legislative institution in his existent system. And when 'Arafat made profound relinquishments and concessions and placed all his weapons and cards at Shultz' feet, ignoring 20 years of Palestinian struggle, the Americans repudiated him, as expected, and threw him as well as his recognitions in the trash basket.

Like the evil one, when he tells man to deny God, but when man denies God, the evil one says: I am free of thee. I do fear God, the lord of the worlds. [Koranic verse].

We in the Corrective Movement were the first in the Palestinian arena to call for reaching a just solution to our fateful national cause. We defined the dimensions of dealing with this issue in light of the current international, Arab, and Palestinian situation. We made this clear in the historical document that was signed by hundreds of thousands of our people and was distributed to all the delegations participating in the Algiers summit, all Arab countries, and world countries.

We were keen to explain in that document what could be accepted by our people without giving anything free to Israel or the United States. We understand that the conflict has factors and components, tactics have limits, and strategy has dimensions that cannot be bypassed by the desire for an alleged rule or false good intentions based on signs and grounds that became incredible by 'Arafat's 20-year march.

As we denounce the U.S. stand on the Palestine question, we feel ashamed and sad about 'Arafat's stands and disregard for our people's blood, rights, sufferings, and pains which he turned into a tool of tampering or a drum and flute to be played by Bassam Abu Sharif, the old and new agent, and Salah Khalaf, who is known for his escape at the time of crises and boasting at times of relaxation. We are confident our people reject such a wretched end to matters.

We in the Corrective Movement, backed by our Palestinian people, believe that our people's right to freedom and independence is humanitarian and decisive. We will defend this right with all our potentials and will protect it from tampering and exploitation by traders.

The state reached by Yasir 'Arafat is an inevitable result of the abrogation of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement as well as disavowing and rejecting it at the penultimate PNC session.

We ask God to protect our people from what might come at the hands of such leaders.

Algeria

Municipal Councils Protest Bad Management

LD0312210188 Paris International Service in French 1800 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] A wave of protests is being held against bad management by the municipal councils around Algiers. Thus a dozen people are on hunger strike at Bourdj el-Bahri, some 30 km from the capital, demanding the dissolution of the municipal council.

At Staoueli, another coastal town in the Algiers region, citizens are demanding that the prefect should suspend the municipal council. In Algiers itself, in the district of Al-Madiana, the inhabitants organized a sit-in in the town hall lasting for a whole day. Carmen Bader explains the discontent of the people:

[Bader] The worsening economic situation, the October events, the political upheaval which followed, and the FLN Congress have unlocked a confrontation at all levels. Often organized through committees, this protest gains all the more momentum as the population finds comfort in the high-level criticism of incompetence and opportunism.

The point of no return was reached with the abolition of Article 120 of the United Party Statutes which until then gave priority to the FLN members within the mass organizations. The elimination of the FLN monopoly, which henceforth becomes a mere component of a front extended to take in other political views, and the disappearance of the regional political commissars—the Mufawwdon—today leaves the door open to much hope, but also to much frustration.

Nudged by the daily difficulties, the population is gradually learning to overcome its fear in the face of a machinery which was [word indistinct] to a large extent after the October events.

As for the media, it no longer hesitates in reporting strikes and demonstrations. Meetings are being held almost everywhere and people are being blamed.

Demands are being uttered for the legalizing of the popular committees which are blooming throughout the country. There is a similar phenomenon at municipality level, while municipal elections are to take place within a few months.

FLN Central Committee To Meet 14 Dec

LD0412144288 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] The ALGERIAN NEWS AGENCY (APS) today reported that the first session of the FLN Central Committee will be held on 14 December.

Dailies Comment on Strikes, Employment Measures

LD0512102588 Algiers APS in Arabic 0915 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Algiers 5 Dec, APS—Because of the spread of strikes in a number of production units in Algeria, in its economics corner; the daily AL-SHA'B today focuses on the reasons which lead to this new phenomenon, which is prevailing in a number of economic organizations while workers in other organizations have resumed their work because of the positive dialogue between them and their officials attended by the local authorities.

To ease the strain of this crisis, which is harmful to the national economy and which affects the course of supply in the markets, the local authorities acted positively and shouldered the responsibilities of managing the supplies, especially when the workers of the national organization for producing flour went on strike.

This strike negatively affected the bakeries, so the capital's national union worked to supply the bakeries with supplies and helped their owners to carry on so that there would be no shortages in the bread, required by the Algerian consumer.

In addition to that, AL-SHA'B reported that continuous efforts are being exerted toward adopting suitable measures to put a final end to such strikes, which create financial losses exhausting the economic organizations' finances.

The French daily EL MOUDJAHID today focused its attention on the subject of employment, which is the first focus of the reform program announced by [President] Chadli Bendjedid.

Therefore, providing employment for all the young and able bodied is considered the most important preoccupation for the government, especially as Algeria has important manpower resources in the youth, who make up more than 70 percent of the Algerian population.

Egypt

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives in Cairo, Meets Mubarak

NC0312190488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1850 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 3 Dec (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo this evening. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the staff of the PLO and Fatah offices in Cairo received him at the airport.

Talks With Mubarak

NC0412103588 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1020 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 4 Dec (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held private talks with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat at the presidential offices in Cairo today.

'Arafat arrived in Cairo last night on a 2-day visit to Egypt for talks with President Mubarak on the situation in the Middle East in light of recent developments concerning the Palestinian issue as well as on the broad outlines of the speech which 'Arafat will deliver before the UN General Assembly on 13 December in Geneva.

Holds News Conference

NC0412143288 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1335 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 4 Dec (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has affirmed that peace is our objective and that we all want a solution for the Palestinian issue. He expressed hope that stability would prevail in the region and that all parties, including Israel, would live in security.

The president's statement came in a news conference he held today with Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat following the 2-hour Egyptian-Palestinian round of talks and a luncheon.

At the outset of the news conference this afternoon, President Mubarak said: I seize this opportunity to welcome Brother PLO Executive Committee Chairman 'Arafat who is now with us here in Cairo. This is a good opportunity to consult with each other. It is, however, not something unusual for us to hold consultations, particularly since we have been supporting the Palestinian cause since the beginning.

President Mubarak went on to say: Yasir 'Arafat will deliver a speech in Geneva on 13 December after the transfer of the UN session from New York. Our goal is peace, and we all want to solve the problem. We all are dissociated from terrorism. We all want stability to prevail in the area and for everyone to live in peace, including Israel.

President Mubarak said: I hope, God willing, that the speech will be successful and the world public will be more convinced of the Palestinian cause, which is the source of instability in the region. I am confident that the U.S., European, and world public, even the Israeli public, want and support peace. We all work for the sake of peace. President Mubarak has once again welcomed 'Arafat to Cairo.

For his part, 'Arafat expressed his happiness at meeting with President Mubarak this morning. He said he had listened to the president's wise and sound views on the Palestinian-Egyptian efforts to give impetus to the peace process and to expedite the convening of an international conference to solve the Middle East and Palestinian issues.

'Arafat said he had thanked President Mubarak, in his own name and on behalf of his brethren, in the name of the Palestinian people, and in the name of the people who are launching the blessed uprising, for what Egypt and the Egyptian people are doing.

'Arafat added: In the name of the Palestinian people, be they women, men, or children, I express my thanks to Brother Struggler Mubarak, whom we appreciate and hold dearly, for what Egypt is doing for their Palestinian brothers during their just struggle. Let us hope we will be able to pray together in Jerusalem, God willing.

To a question on whether the Geneva meeting would be the opening for implementing the peace efforts, Yasir 'Arafat said: I believe that any work within the United Nations is an impetus for the peace process.

Asked about the recent European statement and his comment on it, President Mubarak said: First, we must well understand the European stand, which supports the Palestinian issue. It is also evident that the European public supports the Palestinian issue. The European statement is not harmful, but it is balanced. I believe that we must wait, particularly since we are aware of the European states' intentions and their support for the Palestinian issue. We will wait until after Yasir 'Arafat delivers his speech in Geneva. The speech, I believe will spell out the frank, clear-cut opinion that peace in the area will only be established when the Palestinian issue has been solved.

To a question on whether his speech in Geneva will elaborate on the outcome of the PNC meetings in Algiers, and on whether he considers U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' stand an indication of the new U.S. Administration's stand, 'Arafat said: I prefer to wait. This is better.

Asked whether the PLO intends to seek elevation of its status as observer member at the UNited Nations to that of non-member state at the UN General Assembly meeting in Geneva, 'Arafat said: I cannot say anything now. Let's wait for the debates, which will take place between 13 and 15 December. Until then I have no comment.

Abu Sharif Cited on Talks

JN0412122988 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1110 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 4 Dec (INA)—The Egyptian-Palestinian talks began this morning under the chairmanship of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who arrived in Cairo yesterday.

In an exclusive statement to the INA correspondent in Cairo, Bassam Abu Sharif, press adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, said that the talks will deal with political developments following the adoption of the UN General Assembly resolution to transfer its debate on the Palestine question to Geneva and with the aspects of Egyptian-Palestinian and Palestinian-Arab political coordination in the international arena.

The talks will also assess the general Arab moves as well as the recent Egyptian contacts on various regional and international levels on guaranteeing large-scale support for the proclamation of the Palestinian state and for convening an international Middle East peace conference to achieve permanent peace and stability in the region and the world.

'Arafat Departs After Visit

NC0512101088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0955 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo this morning after a 2-day visit during which he held talks with President Mubarak on the latest developments in the Palestinian issue. He was seen off at the airport by Ambassador Sami Thabit, director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, and by members of the Fatah and PLO offices in Cairo.

Airspace Opened to Libyan Flights 4 Dec

NC0412123488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1224 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 4 Dec (MENA)—Egyptian authorities have decided to open Egyptian airspace to Libyan aviation as of today. This applies to passage through Egyptian space, transit landings, and the organization of regular flights. This was announced at a news conference today by Major General 'Ali Ziku, chairman of the Egyptian Civil Aviation Authority.

Continuing his news conference, Major General Ziku added that, as of today, the Libyan national airline is entitled to operate regular air flights to Egypt, in accordance with a flight schedule to be presented by the airline, and provided these airliners land at Cairo International Airport.

The chairman of the Egyptian Civial Aviation Authority pointed out that the Libyan airline submitted an official application to his authority 2 weeks ago, in which it requested permission for its airliners to land at Cairo International Airport.

He then reviewed Egypt's efforts to achieve maximum cooperation with its Arab sisters in the field of air transportation, referring in this respect to his recent visit to fraternal Kuwait.

Touching on this visit to Kuwait, Maj Gen Ziku said he had signed an official agreement there with his Kuwaiti counterpart Shaykh Jabir Mubarak al-Sabah. According to the agreement, Egypt's airspace has been opened to all Kuwaiti aircraft, without any restrictions, limits, or prior notice. He added that the same rules will apply to Egypt Air's flights to Kuwait.

He said that this agreement has eliminated all restrictions limiting the air flights between Egypt and Kuwait, which had earlier required schedules involving a specific number of flights between the two countries.

He noted that this agreement will help increase the flow of Kuwaiti tourists to Egypt. He added that since the air transport facilities generally help boost tourism, the Egyptian Civil Aviation Authority is eager to take the necessary measures to ease the arrival of tourists in Egypt.

Tourism Minister on Flights

NC0512135688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—Fu'ad Sultan, minister of tourism and civil aviation, has made a statement commenting on reports published today regarding permission granted to the Libyan national airline to enter Arab [as received] airspace and land at Cairo airport and on the possible resumption of its flights to Cairo.

The tourism minister said the truth of the matter is that the Egyptian civil aviation authorities had made an exception and approved a request by the Libyan national airline to allow eight Libyan airliners, flying passengers to Saudi Arabia to perform the minor pilgrimage, to pass through Egyptian airspace and use Cairo airport, but only if the need should arise.

'Abd al-Majid on Ties With Libya, Syria, Iran

NC0512114288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1035 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has welcomed the recent Libyan initiative to halt information campaigns against Egypt. He stressed that there are no differences between the Egyptian and Libyan peoples.

Answering questions from members of the Consultative Council Committee on Arab and International Affairs and National Security yesterday, 'Abd al-Majid said that the reopening of Egyptian airspace to Libyan aviation is seen as a first step toward improving bilateral relations in the future. It is also an important step and a good but limited initiative.

He stressed the importance of settling the issue of compensation for the Egyptian workers who were expelled from Libya without obtaining what they were entitled to. He

voiced the hope that a settlement of this issue will be reached at a meeting in Geneva in line with the one reached for Tunisian workers, who regained their rights.

'Abd al-Majid announced that attempts are currently being made to bring about a reconciliation between Egypt and Syria. He stressed that there are absolutely no differences between the Egyptian and Syrian peoples. There are, he said, certain differences over some political matters. There is no objection to the reestablishment of normal ties between the two countries, provided that previous practices will not recur and that we may look to the future and forget the past. He declared that Egypt welcomes the relative diminution of Syrian information campaigns against Egypt.

On the international arbitration tribunal ruling, 'Abd al-Majid stressed that Egypt will not accept any infringement of Egypt's sovereignty over Tabah. He noted that Israel has decided to honor the Tabah ruling and has declared, through its officials, that it will implement it.

'Abd al-Majid denied that Egypt had come under U.S. or Israeli pressure not to recognize the Palestinian state. He noted that Israel had officially refuted a foreign news agency report that it had threatened Egypt.

On the possibility of restoring ties with Iran, 'Abd al-Majid stated that there are currently no relations between Egypt and Iran and that there is no intention at present to resume them. He noted, however, that attempts are currently being made to have Egyptian prisoners of war in Iran released. Iran, he said, refuses to say how many there are.

On the talks with the IMF and the World Bank, 'Abd al-Majid emphasized that Egypt will not agree to have its social and economic stability disturbed, nor will it accept any threats to its economic structure. He pointed out that the economic reforms Egypt is carrying out are not aimed at satisfying the World Bank or the IMF. They are designed first and foremost to serve Egypt's interests. He noted that the IMF member states are becoming convinced of Egypt's ideas. He expressed his hope that these considerations will be taken into account during the forthcoming talks with the IMF.

'Abd al-Majid emphasized the importance of convening an international conference for peace in the Middle East and of removing all obstacles and difficulties facing such a conference, which is currently considered the appropriate formula for the resolution of the Palestinian and Middle East issues, as well as the alternative to direct talks.

'Abd al-Majid asserted that there is full cooperation with the Palestinian leadership. He expressed his hope that Yasir 'Arafat's speech to the UN General Assembly in Geneva on 13 December will shed more light on the PNC resolutions, which he described as excellent and characterized by realism. They deserve support and encouragement by all peace-loving countries, he said.

'Abd al-Majid Reviews Foreign Policy

NC0412151588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 4 Dec (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that Egypt manages its foreign relations with complete clarity of vision, and constantly assesses and reassesses developments on the Arab and international scenes.

'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt has made a positive contribution toward steering events and opinions in the right direction. Its stands, moves, and initiatives stem from an accurate and objective appraisal of all events and issues, 'Abd al-Majid added, stressing the point that there have been no constraints or limitations on its freedom of action.

This came in a speech which 'Abd al-Majid delivered today before a meeting of the Consultative Council's Committee on Arab and International Affairs and National Security. In his speech, 'Abd al-Majid reviewed the recent developments in the Arab region and around the world.

'Abd al-Majid mentioned that a major change has taken place in the international scene, particularly concerning the relations between the two superpowers. He said that Egypt has welcomed the numerous meetings between the two superpower leaders, the most recent of which was the one held in Moscow in May.

'Abd al-Majid said that several regional problems have made tangible progress toward peaceful solutions as a result of the changed world atmosphere. He mentioned in this context the Geneva agreements concerning the Afghanistan problem, the ceasefire in the Gulf, and the quadripartite talks on Namibia. He noted that Cairo was the scene of one of the rounds of talks between the United States, Cuba, Angola, and South Africa on Namibia.

'Abd al-Majid said that the change in superpower relations was a motive for Egypt to reconsider its international relations.

He noted that Egypt has moved steadily toward conducting a balanced foreign policy, taking into account the special and distinguished ties it has with the United States, as well as its impoved relations with the Soviet Union.

'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt has met its obligations concerning the issue of international disarmament. Egypt, he said, has made positive proposals through the disarmament conference in Geneva, and its call for establishing a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East received initial support from the concerned parties.

'Abd al-Majid added that Egypt continues to play an active role in the Nonaligned Movement. Egypt's substantial input in the 1986 summit in Harare, Zimbabwe,

clearly reshaped several of the conventional attitudes of the movement concerning the Middle East and other international issues. Egypt also made effective contributions during the ministerial meeting of the movement in Cyprus in September 1988.

Of Egypt's standing in the Islamic world, 'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt has succeeded in improving its ties with the Islamic countries through continued consultations, as well as through participation in the various activities of the ICO.

Egypt, 'Abd al-Majid said, was active at the ICO ministerial summit in Amman in March and at the Islamic information ministers conference in Jeddah in May. Its significant contribution to the ICO's activities and its honorable stands on political issues, as well as its valuable input in economic and cultural issues, made the ICO foreign ministers accept Egypt's offer to arrange their coming meeting in Cairo in 1990.

Touching on Egypt's relations with Africa, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said there have recently been concerted and extensive moves and efforts to bolster Egypt's ties with all the African countries, whether on a bilateral or multilateral level. He pointed in this regard to the ministerial conference of the Undugo Group held in October, as well as the conference of the African socialist and democratic parties held in November, which was attended by Senegalese President Abdou Diouf.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister then spoke about Arab relations. He emphasized that most parts of the Arab body had interjoined and that Egypt's flags have again started flying high in the Arab capitals, just as the flags of its sisters are flying high in Egypt.

He added: Egypt has again assumed its position in several Arab funds and unions. He maintained that this did not come from a vacuum. The Egyptian political course has been tenacious in terms of ideas and action, and our pan-Arab affiliation is an indisputable fact. Egypt has never lost its faith in its Arabism, even under the most difficult circumstances. Likewise the Arab brothers have not lost their faith in Egypt's role and position, he said.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid went on to say that Egypt has promoted its special relations with its Arab nation and bolstered its role and march. Egypt's policy has always reflected its faith in that its effective participation in defending the pan-Arab security is at the same time participation in defending Egypt's national security. Egypt's clear-cut concept of its role and of the future of the Arab world has often been reiterated by President Mubarak, particularly in his speech on 13 October 1987. 'Abd al-Majid noted that this was represented in the call to draw up a joint Arab concept of the supreme pan-Arab objectives, to safeguard the Arab nation's national security, to confront the dangers impeding the Arab nation's march, and to chart an integrated strategy to combat these dangers, regardless of the existing differences.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister added that this was also represented in the call to safeguard the independence of the Arab will, and in the commitment of every Arab state to respect the basic charters which were drawn up to govern the united Arab movement, foremost being the Arab League Charter and the joint Arab Defense Pact.

The foreign minister affirmed that Egypt was not indifferent to the Arab nation's problems, which represent the fulcrum of Egypt's moves and activities on the international level and at consultations with capitals of the major powers.

Regarding the Palestinian issue, Dr 'Abd al-Majid noted Egypt's efforts in support of the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people. He called for a comprehensive peaceful settlement and cited the need to hold an international peace conference to be attended by all the parties concerned. He added that Egypt plays a prominent role in strengthening and promoting Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

He referred in this respect to King Husayn's decision to loosen Jordan's ties with the West Bank, which, he said, had contributed to ridding these relations of mutual doubts and had enabled the Palestinian leadership to assume its historic duties and responsibilities as a genuine party to the peace process.

He stressed that the declaration of an independent Palestinian state is within the framework of international legality, particularly since it was based on UN General Assembly Resolution No 181 of the year 1947. He noted in addition that the [Algiers] political program included recognition of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid pointed out that Egyptian-Palestinian consultations preceded this Palestinian decision. Egypt's assessment of this step was clear and strong. It termed it a courageous act and a valuable opportunity that is worth being seized by all the parties concerned and by the international community, to find a comprehensive, durable, and just settlement in the Middle East. He pointed out that such a settlement would enable the countries in the region to devote their attention exclusively to reconstruction and development, would eliminate all causes of tension and suffering, and would help erase this tragedy endured by an entire people from everybody's conscience.

'Abd al-Majid added: Perhaps this leads us to the U.S. position, to which we attach particular importance in view of the impact it could have on the peace process and on attaining the desired settlement. It is our belief that the latest Palestinian decision must be seen as a broad step toward bringing the Palestinian and U.S. views closer together and activating the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. In addition, it should urge and encourage the United States to play a more positive role and to live up to its responsibilities as a superpower and a permanent member of the UN Security Council in finding a just settlement to the conflict in the Middle East.

The foreign minister noted that, in light of these developments, the coming stage requires further consultation and coordination on the part of the Arabs. They must exploit this positive Palestinian initiative, which is in line with the general Arab inclination toward peace. He added that Egypt is holding intensive contacts, at the highest levels, with the Arab capitals, as well as with the various countries in the world, urging them to live up to their responsibilities toward bolstering the peace drive in the Middle East so that security and stability might be restored to the region.

Turning to the Iraq-Iran conflict, Dr 'Abd al-Majid stressed that Egypt's firm position and its relentless diplomatic activity on the international level have always been supportive of a halt to the Gulf war. Egypt has warned against the dangers resulting from its continuation and the adverse impact it could have on international peace and security, and called for the need to expedite the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No 598 as a basis for a just and balanced settlement of the dispute.

He added that Egypt's position in support of Iraq stemmed from pan-Arab and objective considerations, particularly as the Gulf region occupies a special position on the list of Egypt's vital interests and its security is part of Egypt's security. For this reason, Egypt's position reflected its eagerness to preserve stability in the Gulf and its solidarity with the Gulf states in the face of the threats which they had been subjected to and which undermined the security of some of these states.

He noted that Egypt is watching closely and with full attention the course of the peace talks. It supports, he said, the positive efforts being exerted to turn the current cease-fire in the Gulf into permanent peace, so that stability might prevail in the region and the two countries involved might direct their resources toward serving the interests of their peoples.

The foreign minister added that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's visit to Cairo on 28 November was a translation of the strong relations between the two countries and an expression of his fraternal ties with President Mubarak. It also fell within the context of continuing consultations between the two countries. The same applies to His Majestry King Husayn's visit to Cairo on 30 November, which was an important step on the road toward promoting Arab solidarity and strengthening the unity of the Arab ranks, as well as an expression of the close relations linking Egypt and Jordan.

Regarding the situation in Lebanon, Dr 'Abd al-Majid reiterated Egypt's emphasis at the various levels that a solution to the Lebanese problem lies only in the suspension of foreign intervention in Lebanon's domestic affairs, the withdrawal of all foreign parties from the Lebanese territories, and the freedom of choice by the Lebanese people to select the type of regime they want, as part of Lebanon's unity and the right of its people to enjoy sovereignty over their national soil.

He noted that President Mubarak had called on more than one occasion for the need to convene a well-prepared Arab summit that would take the necessary steps to tackle the deteriorating situation in Lebanon decisively, away from biases or compromises.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid then touched on the issue of Tabah, noting that the ruling on Tabah and the other border markers issued by the International Arbitration Panel in Geneva on 29 September set a model for official and non-official national action. It also underlined Egypt's political and diplomatic strategy, which is characterized by confidence, objectivity, and balance.

In general, it strengthened the tendency calling for the implementation of principles of international law and the commitment toward the principles on which the UN Charter was founded, particularly Article 33 of this charter he added. He affirmed that Egypt and its political leadership are closely following up the implementation of this decision.

Ghali Leaves Mexico for Cuba; To Meet Castro

NC0212154388 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, left Mexico this afternoon on his way to Cuba for a 3-day visit. He stated that he will meet with the Cuban president and will hold talks with the Cuban foreign minister on bilateral relations and ways of bolstering them in various fields. They will also discuss preparations for the Nonaligned Movement summit. [passage omitted]

Papers Criticize U.S. Stand on Palestinian Issue

NC0512065688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2215 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 4 Dec (MENA)—In their commentaries tomorrow, the Egyptian newspapers praise the two UN General Assembly resolutions denouncing the U.S. refusal to grant an entry visa to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and moving the assembly debate on the Palestinian issue from New York to the UN headquarters in Geneva. The papers affirm that this

UN General Assembly stand is considered a great victory for the Palestinian issue and a great defeat for the United States, and that it will most probably have repercussions in the future.

Under the headline "The International Community Returns the American Slap," AL-AKHBAR says: The international community returned U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' slap in the face when 154 UN General Assembly member states approved a resolution to move the assembly debate on the Palestinian issue to the organization's European headquarters in Geneva. The paper notes that no country in the world has ever faced such a situation.

AL-AKHBAR says that Shultz has succeeded in triggering the largest demonstration against the Reagan administration within and outside the United Nations, and even within American society itself. He has exposed his country to an embarrassing situation because of a decision that lacked the minimum degree of logic and wisdom. This has shaken Washington's credibility and undermined confidence in its claims to defend freedom and human rights.

Concluding its commentary, the paper affirms that Shultz will not be able to ban 'Arafat from speaking at the UN headquarters in Geneva. In a few days' time, this city will witness another demonstration calling for support for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, foremost among which is their right to existence, to self-determination, and to the establishment of their own independent state.

AL-AHRAM describes the two UN General Assembly resolutions as an international referendum on the justice of the substance of the Palestinian cause rather than an incidental event in which a judgement was made between two disputing parties. The paper says that the final statement of account of Washington's position toward 'Arafat shows a grave loss suffered by the United States as opposed to a great gain achieved by the Palestinian cause.

The paper adds that the international publicity given to the Palestinian issue as a result of this U.S. blunder was greater than that given to the PNC decisions. The paper affirms that the unjust U.S. decision drew more attention to the justice of this issue, particularly in light of the Palestinians' response to all the conditions that had been demanded. This makes people throughout the world think of it as a just cause struggling now against a double injustice.

AL-AHRAM notes that 'Arafat's standing has undoubtedly risen in the world. Meanwhile, U.S. prestige in the eyes of the entire world has been damaged because of the action of a few persons at the end of their term in office and because of the action which the paper describes as unilateral and reckless.

The paper says that this abnormal isolationist situation will produce extensive troubles for the new U.S. Administration. It will restrict its freedom of action and show it to be completely biased toward one party, which has been the subject of world indignation because of its actions and indifference. This is unless the new administration breaks away by making a bold decision when it gets down to discussing the issue. [passage omitted]

Paper Condemns 'Stupid' Shultz Decision on Visa

JN0412100188 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
2 Dec 88 p 3

[Editorial: "A Stupid Decision Condemned by All"]

[Text] World reaction to the stupid decision by Washington not to grant Mr Yasir 'Arafat a visa enabling him to enter the United States and go to the United Nations in New York to deliver his speech on the day of solidarity with the Palestinian people expresses the anger and rage at U.S. behavior.

Apart from Israel—the only one to benefit from this stupid decision—151 states in the UN General Assembly said nay to the United States, which found itself for the first time totally and internationally isolated from its closest friends. Britain was the only country to abstain, on the grounds that the UN General Assembly resolution's style was violent and devoid of due respect for the headquarters nation. But Britain supported granting Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to enable him to clarify the PLO's stand from the United Nations podium.

In our opinion, this international denial of the U.S. decision not only expresses the size of the positive reactions to the PNC's historic decisions during its last session but also reveals the extent of the limited waves of forgery and deception constantly waged by Israel against the Palestinians by portraying them as supporters of terrorism and not peace-lovers. In this, it depended on the support and backing of most U.S. media and official organs of influence.

Perhaps those who wanted the PLO to remain the prisoner of certain beliefs realize now to what extent Palestinian moderation has managed to gain wide international political support for the question of Palestine unprecedented in the history of the cause. At the same time, the PLO or the cause have not lost anything as a result of their recognition of UN Security Council Resolution No 242 or by declaring that they denounce terrorism and accept the challenges of peace within the framework of international legitimacy, which stipulates the establishment of two states: one Jewish and the other Arab.

The attempts to stigmatize the PLO and its chairman, Yasir 'Arafat, with terrorism do not in any way, go along with the constructive spirit shown by the PLO toward the issue of peace in the region to the extent of implicit recognition of Israel. If there is one party that should be charged with terrorism, then Washington is the one who

knows the identity of the other side of the dispute best, where the disgusting file on a series of terrorist crimes, in which they take pride, is located and where there is continuous insistence on occupying the land, scattering the peaceful, demolishing homes, changing geographic features, and attempting to create a new reality by illegitimate settlements denied by all international organizations and forums.

We believed that the United States of America will meet Palestinian moderation with a constructive spirit, especially after the PLO responded to all the conditions it was insisting on to start negotiations with the PLO. But the surprise was that Washington met the Palestinian step by unjustifiable and incomprehensible measures, which do not indicate anything but the desire to abort the spirit of peace, which all the PLO factions embraced.

In conclusion, there remains one thing to be said: We hope that this is not the United States' last word and that the new U.S. Administration under the leadership of George Bush will correctly understand the situation in the Middle East, which will help it to continue shouldering its leading role in building and forming real peace needed by all sides in the region without exception. This peace is also needed by the superpowers desiring security in the world in this stage of detente.

Libya

Crocker Remarks Viewed as 'False Accusations'

LD0412145388 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1330 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] A source at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has commented on the statements by Chester Crocker, U.S. deputy secretary of state, to JEUNE AFRIQUE in which he attacked the Great Jamahiriyah.

The source said that Crocker's statements are merely repetition of the false accusations by officials of the present U.S. Administration intended to distract attention and exploit the situation.

The source added that the Jamahiriyah has explained its views on this biased campaign, which has noticeably escalated with the ending of the current administration's term of office and departure from the White House.

An accurate and just analyst of these statements and their timing cannot separate them from the general policy of the U.S. Administration over the past 8 years. This policy is characterized with hostility toward the issues of liberation, progress, and peace.

The source said: It is no accident that Crocker's statements came at the same time as the world and international organizations condemn the U.S. Government's arbitrary decision to stop brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, from visiting New York to deliver his speech during the UN General Assembly discussions of the Palestinian issue.

Perhaps these statements by Crocker are part of the U.S. Administration's reaction to its political defeat, which resulted from this arbitrary and irresponsible behavior.

'Audacious Arrogance' Criticized

LD0312194988 Tripoli JANA in English 1823 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The French magazine JEUNE AFRIQUE carried today an interview with the American assistant secretary of state called Crocker in which he attacked the clear and open stances of Great Jamahiriyah towards the various national, Arab, African and human issues in a most hateful and distorting manner to which the Reagan administration and its media apparatus is accustomed.

The editor of international affairs in JANA deplored this audacious arrogance which reflects the immorality identifying the policy of the U.S. Administration.

The editor said 'What was attributed to this Crocker is merely a continuation of the campaign of lies and disinformation and malice from which the US Administration has not desisted for one day towards Great Jamahiriyah either through officials of via the media.

This actually confirms the comprehensive progressive and liberation policy characterizing the Great Al-Fatih Revolution and the tangible and historic victories it realised on the path of final victory for the cause of freedom which became a cause of daily paranoia to the US Administration, for such victories constitute a real obstacle in the face of imperialist and colonial designs of this administration.

He added that the persistence of the US Administration in fabricating ill founded allegations against Jamahiriyah and the gross interference in the internal Arab and African affairs reflect the colonial and imperialist spirit which aims at creating tension in the region and its destabilisation so as to create the appropriate atmosphere for imperialist intervention and to further domination and expansion.

He added 'What has fueled further the American campaign of hatred towards Great Jamahiriyah was the permanent and influential presence of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution be it on national unionist action being strengthened these days in the Arab Maghreb region or at the level of African continent as the slogan there is no alliance (?for) Africa except with itself is being entrenched or at the international human level at a time the scope of human rights is making great historic strides which took off from the territory of the Great Al-Fatih

and the movement of peoples seeking freedom interacts before the successive defeats of the imperialist design and its symbols and agents. [sentence as received]

He said 'This effective presence will not be affected by the methods of terrorism of blackmail and will continue to grow, for the Great Al-Fatih Revolution is strong in its humanitarian and civilised thoughts and influential through the strength of its masses along the Arab arena and the various parts of the globe wherever there was a fighter for freedom and justice.

Demonstration Protests U.S. Decision on 'Arafat
NC0312175588 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Masses of the basic people's congresses in the municipal branch of surman in the town of Al-Zawiyah staged a demonstration of anger this morning to denounce the decision by the U.S. terrorist administration to bar brother Yasir 'Arafat from attending the UN General Assembly meetings and delivering a speech before the session on the Palestine question.

The demonstrators issued a statement denouncing the U.S. Administration's hostile stands toward the Palestinian Arab people's right to self-determination and to establish their independent state on all Palestinian Arab territory.

The masses called on masses of the Arab nation to adopt a decisive and united stand against the U.S. Administration and its repeated plots against the freedom and security of the Arab nation.

The demonstration participants sent a cable to the brother leader of the revolution reaffirming their determination to march forward on the path of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution and their constant readiness to defend the gigantic achievements of civilization realized by the Great Al-Fatih Revolution and to confront firmly and crush the enemies of the Arab nation.

Source Denies Al-Qadhdhafi Phoned Mubarak
NC0312172888 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1720 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Tripoli, 3 Dec (JANA)—A responsible source in the People's Office for Foreign Liaison has refuted the report put out by the GULF NEWS AGENCY alleging that the brother leader of the revolution has held a telephone conversation with the Egyptian president.

The source stressed that this report is baseless.

Jallud Briefs Al-Qadhdhafi on Visit to Italy
LD0412144188 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution today received Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, who presented a comprehensive report on his visit to Italy and his talks with Italian officials and politicians.

The brother leader of the revolution appreciated the visit and its results, and said relations have started to take the right course. He recommended following up these results and continuing the dialogue.

He also highly appreciated the courage of some political forces whose conscience has started to pain them because the Libyan Arab people have been exposed to massacres and carnage. They have started to understand the just demands of the Libyan Arab people for compensation for the crimes of fascism. He thanked those who have expressed their understanding of and commitment to moral and ethical values.

The brother leader of the revolution was also touched by the statement of his holiness the pope in which he gave the brother leader and the Libyan Arab people their due when he said: Everyday I pray for the Libyan people and for Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Also his holiness's statement after the meeting with Staff Major Jallud, about the Palestinian Arab people and their right to self-determination in their homeland.

The brother leader of the revolution decided to send a message to his holiness the pope to thank him for these principled and sincere stands toward himself, the Libyan Arab people, and the Palestinian Arab people.

Iran's Nabavi, Al-Muntasir Hold Talks
LD0212160788 Tehran IRNA in English 1516 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 2, IRNA—Iran's Heavy Industries Minister Behzad Nabavi met with the secretary of the General People's Committee of Libya, 'Umar al-Muntasir, in Tripoli Thursday.

In their meeting Nabavi expressed confidence that Iran-Libya's relations would further broaden in the near future.

Al-Muntasir said there is sufficient ground for cooperation between Iran and Libya. He deplored the high volume of trade exchanges between the Muslim states and the West despite the potentials for Muslim countries. He said Muslim states should make an effort to rid themselves from the trade monopoly the West has imposed on them.

Cooperation Agreement Signed

LD0212113188 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0800 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Tripoli, 2 Dec (JANA)—The minutes of a joint cooperation agreement were signed yesterday evening between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Islamic Republic of Iran at the end of the work of the first session of the joint Libyan Arab-Iranian committee.

The secretary of the General People's Committee for Industry signed on behalf the Libyan side and Behzad Nabavi signed on behalf of Iran.

The agreement provides for expanding cooperation in the industrial, trade exchange, agriculture, information, culture, oil industry, communications, maritime transport, and telecommunications spheres.

It also provides for the establishment of joint companies and projects in the industrial, agricultural, and foreign investment fields.

The signing ceremony was attended by the secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison in Iran and the Iranian ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Further on Trade Agreement

LD0312152888 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 3, IRNA—Iran and Libya inked a protocol following a meeting of their Joint Economic Committee in Tripoli Friday to boost trade and cooperation between the two countries.

The protocol was signed by Heavy Industry Minister Behzad Nabavi and his Libyan counterpart Fathi Shatwan.

Accordingly Iran will export domestically-assembled Renault-5 cars, detergent powder, soap, toothpaste, clothes, blankets, factory-woven carpets, agricultural machinery, electricity pylons, aluminium and steel profile, car radiators and spare parts for cement factories and import methanol, polyvinyl (PVC) tubes and chemical fertilizers.

The two countries will also exchange experts to cooperate in the fields of urban and long distance telecommunications, agriculture, oil and mining.

The joint commission met between 28 November-2 December.

Nabavi also met and conferred with Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, secretary of the General's People Committee, 'Umar al-Muntasir and Foreign Liaison Minister Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi.

On his way back, he had a short stop-over in Turkey Friday, where he discussed with Prime Minister Turgut Ozal the expansion of Tehran-Ankara ties and implementation of a protocol between the two countries.

Delegation Ends Visit

LD0212122188 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1055 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Tripoli, 2 Dec (JANA)—Brother Behzad Nabavi the Iranian minister of heavy industries and the accompanying delegation left Tripoli early this morning after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah during which he took part in the work of the joint Libyan Arab-Iranian committee.

Sudan

SPLA Radio Carries Relief Plane Flight Plans

EA0212174688 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] A spokesman for Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Association, SRRA, has disclosed that a program of humanitarian relief operations by the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] to include both SPLA-controlled and government-held towns has been consented to by the SRRA. Accordingly, a flight plan for the operations, which takes effect as from 4 December 1988, has been approved. Clearance for the start of the relief operations has been granted by SPLM/SPLA GHQ [general command headquarters] upon the request of the SRRA, and SPLA field commanders and their men are hereby instructed to take note of the relief flight schedule, which is as follows:

On Monday, [as heard] 4 December 1988, type of aircraft: Twin Otter DHC6, from Lokichokio to Ler and from Ler back to Lokichokio. Another type of aircraft: Beechcraft B200, from Khartoum to Wau and Wau to Khartoum. Another type of Aircraft: Lockheed L382G Hercules, from Khartoum to Wau and Wau to Khartoum. Another type of Aircraft: Cessna Caravan C208, from Lokichokio to Ler, Ler to Akon, Akon to Ler, and from Ler back to Lokichokio.

On Monday, 5 December 1988, type of aircraft: Twin Otter DHC6, from Lokichokio to Ler and Ler to Lokichokio. Another type of Aircraft: Lockheed L382G Hercules, from Khartoum to Wau and from Wau to Khartoum. Another type of aircraft: Cessna Caravan C208, from Lokichokio to Ler and from Ler to Akon, from Akon back to Ler, and from Ler back to Lokichokio.

On Tuesday, 6 December 1988, type of aircraft: Twin Otter DHC6, from Lokichokio to Ler, Ler to Lokichoko. Another type of aircraft: Beechcraft B200, from Khartoum to Wau, Wau to Aweil, Aweil to Wau, and from Wau back to Khartoum. Another type of aircraft: Lockheed L382G Hercules, from Khartoum to Wau and from

Wau back to Khartoum. Another type of aircraft: Cessna Caravan C208, from Lokichokio to Ler, Ler to Akon, Akon to Ler, and from Ler back to Lokichokio.

On Wednesday, 7 December 1988, type of aircraft: Twin Otter DHC6, from Lokichokio to Ler and from Ler to Lokichokio. Another type of aircraft: Beechcraft B200, from Khartoum to Wau, Wau to Aweil, Aweil to Wau, and Wau to Khartoum. Another type of aircraft: Pilatus Porter PC6, from Lokichokio to Yirol and from Yirol to Lokichokio. Another type of aircraft: Lockheed L382G Hercules, from Khartoum to Wau, Wau to Khartoum. Another type of aircraft: Cessna Caravan C208, from Lokichokio to Ler, Ler to Akon, Akon to Ler, and from Ler back to Lokichokio.

On Thursday 8 December, type of aircraft: Twin Otter DHC6, will take off from Lokichokio to Ler, and from Ler back to Lokichokio. Another type of aircraft: Pilatus Porter PC6, from Lokichokio to Yirol, Yirol to Lokichokio. Another type of aircraft: Cessna Caravan C208, will take off from Lokichokio to Ler, Ler to Akon, from Akon back to Ler, and from Ler back to Lokichokio.

On Friday, 9 December 1988, type of aircraft: Twin Otter DHC6, will take off from Lokichokio to Ler, then from Ler to Lokichokio. Another type of aircraft: Beechcraft B200, will take off from Khartoum to Wau, from Wau to Aweil, Aweil to Wau, and from Wau back to Khartoum. Another type of aircraft: Lockheed L382G Hercules, will take off from Khartoum to Wau, Wau to Khartoum. Another type of aircraft: Cessna Caravan C208: will take off from Lokichokio to Ler, Ler to Akon, Akon to Ler, and from Ler back to Lokichokio.

And on Saturday, 10 December 1988, type of aircraft: Beechcraft B200, will take off from Khartoum to Wau, from Wau to Aweil, from Aweil back to Wau, and from Wau back to Khartoum. Another type of aircraft: Lockheed L382G Hercules, will take off from Khartoum to Wau, and from Wau back to Khartoum.

SPLA Makes 4-Day Raid on Enemy Garrisons

EA0212222688 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Combined SPLA forces of Geigar and Kawkab battalions under the direct command of alternate Commander Luka Lual Ring and the overall command of CDR Daniel Aweit Akuot, alternate member of SPLM-SPLA Political-military High Command and zonal commander of northern Bahr al-Ghazal, carried out a 4-day raid on the enemy garrisons of Aweil and Masingo on 14th, 15th, 18th, and 23d November 1988, killing 17 and wounding 26 enemy soldiers, including the commander of Aweil garrison, Lieutenant Colonel Taha, who sustained serious injuries. The enemy also suffered widespread damages in military equipment. [passage omitted]

Anya Nya II: No Food To Reach SPLA Areas

EA0412173788 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1330 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Remarks by Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Chuol, Anya Nya II Political Bureau member]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] We say to all the sons of the Sudanese people, particularly to our brother fighters in the SPLA to whom we address our talks, that John Garang's radio and all the drum beaters and the barbarians who praise John Garang because they want him to come and give them power, are going to try to cheat you in a new way, by telling you that aircraft are going to bring you food. What we say is that such aircraft carrying relief supplies for the affected citizens in the south as well as arms for the SPLA will never land in the areas defined by the SPLA.

In this respect, brothers and sisters in the south, we in Anya Nya II, warn any aircraft against daring to deal directly with the SPLA in its areas. The promulgated agreement is that all supplies will be transported to the areas under the control of the Sudanese Armed Forces and government. John Garang is not a government. This is what we want to tell all relief organizations: Garang is a rebel against the state. We shall never agree for him to be given food to eat so that he can come and strike at the poor people and loot their property.

Every citizen in the SPLA areas should be aware: No food will ever reach any area controlled by John Garang. That is why we appeal to all citizens to move to the areas where the Armed Forces are, to the Army and Anya Nya II areas—the areas where there are policemen, prison guards, sultans and chiefs loyal to the state. [passage omitted]

Anya Nya II Appeals for Prisoner Release

EA0312200888 Omdurman National Unity Radio in English 1330 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Brothers and sisters in the south and all sons of Sudan, today we are introducing one of the sons of Bahr al-Ghazal who are working in the Anya Nya II movements' higher leadership, who will present to you a very important statement to all the sons of the Sudanese people. The statement is directed especially to SPLA forces in all the operations areas. This statement is also directed to all the sons of the south so that they know the reality of what is going on inside the SPLA movement.

[Son of Bahr al-Ghazal] In the name of God, in the name of this land, in the name of our people, and in the name of life and death, we in Anya Nya II hereby appeal to the SPLA leadership and followers and all those who are sympathetic with SPLA to observe that we are following with greatest possible care all that is being called the peace process. In this peace process, SPLA leadership and SPLA followers have always and quite often given conditions to Sudan Government and to the Sudanese

people. These conditions are now being seriously considered by internal political forces, how and when we are going to consider them, and we would like at this stage to spell out the conditions which the SPLA has to observe.

One of the first conditions, which is directed to SPLA leadership, is that the SPLA leadership must recognize the system in the country: The system of liberal democracy; the system of freedom of movement; the system of freedom of speech; the system where every man is free to express what he wants to say. From here, as I know so well, the SPLA leadership does not recognize the internal freedom which the Sudanese people are now enjoying. I appeal to them to observe these freedoms, that they must recongnize these freedoms which are being exercised by all the Sudanese people.

We have been hearing from our representatives in Addis Ababa, and from our represeniatives in London, and from our representatives in Nairobi, and from our representatives in Uganda. All these representatives have been providing us with valuable information. This valuable information is that the SPLA is not observing these freedoms.

From here [words indistinct] and we have heard it several times that Arok Thuon Arok, Kuany Bol, Joseph Oduho, Kawae Makuei, Garang Deng Agwer, Dr (Oman van Toog), Maker Benjamin, and several others including (Makuur Alogyu)—all these gentlemen we are hearing are still in prison. Imprisoned for what? Why? Why is the SPLA system keeping these people in jail. Why, while they are valuable sons of this land who can contribute to the peace process, who can contribute in war, who can contribute in shaping the affairs?

From here we are asking SPLA leadership to release these gentlemen from jail if, and if he means that he wants peace. Because these gentlemen, these patriots, have a role and a very important role to play in the affairs of this country. And if they are released, the real freedom which they are looking for will be achieved: It will not be achieved in a handful of henchmen of John Garang.

[Word indistinct] You cannot change the minds of our people. We have suffered enough. Hunger is no longer (?worth words), people are dying daily of hunger. People are dying daily of disease, let alone those who are dying because of war. Here, we have reached maximum limit of our suffering. [word indistinct] each other. (?Occasionally been) forgotten, [words indistinct] forgotten, for what when there is freedom of speech, people to sit down and discuss?

We are going to this constitutional conference with SPLA or without, and this must be well underlined that the 31st of December is the time for all of us to sit down and talk. And if this talk fails, this one, we can resume the hostilities. I appeal once more to our brothers to talk to the leaders to observe these basic liberties. Thank you, we shall meet again.

SPLA Reportedly Executing Own Members

EA0312201588 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Brothers and sisters in the south and all sons of Sudan: Muhammad Chuol greets you from National Unity Radio and salutes all the fighters in the south of our beloved country. Brothers and sisters, today we want to convey to you a very important message and statement sent to us by some SPLA leaders so that we can announce it to John Garang's army.

This message has come from Nairobi. It gives the following facts. First the SPLA movement has executed Arok Thuon Arok. Naturally, this was confirmed for us by SPLA people in Nairobi who said they would send us more information through London because this information has gone to their office there. Carabino has sent a message saying that he is aware that he is facing execution and asking all the sons of Bahr al-Ghazal to withdraw from the SPLA and join the sons of the Sudanese people and surrender their arms to Anya Nya II or to the Armed Forces.

They [not further identified] also say that there is a big conspiracy currently being planned inside the SPLA on instructions from the Ethiopian Government, which arrested Daniel Kuoth Matthews, Gilario Wani Igga, Martin Majer, Aton Dak, and some brothers from the most senior commands and officers known to us, like Lual Deng and other officers not yet listed. We will receive a full list of their names.

Brothers and sisters in the south and all sons of Sudan, this line which John Garang has come to follow, while at the same time alleging that he is pursuing peace, can only confirm one thing: It confirms to us that John Garang has started executing the people who want the policy to continue. At the same time, reliable information indicates that John Garang wants to execute all the senior leaders who are in control of the political and military situation inside his movement. [sentence as heard]

Therefore, these people are now slated for arrest and execution, people like Riak Machar, commander of the western zone. He is wanted and is sentenced to death and it is known that Riak Machar never went to (Bilpam) since he entered the western zone. Also another one named John Luk, SPLA representative in London, is sentenced to death. He has never been to Addis Ababa but will be immediately executed the moment he arrives in Addis.

Brothers and sisters in the south and all sons of Sudan, these facts must be known to all the sons of the south. Now the picture has become clear; the SPLA people have

now realized that this radio, National Unity Radio, is the radio which tells them the facts which have been concealed from them. They know also that the country is following the right path and that Anya Nya II's path is the clear path.

However, danger has reached those who did not want to acknowledge this fact. These are led by William Nyun, Gordon Kong Chuol, Stephen Dhol and all those who thought that the SPLA could save them and solve their problems. Now they are all slated for execution. Naturally, if these people, whom we know, are executed, there will be nothing of the peace that John Garang was talking about. Why was Arok Thuon Arok executed? He was executed because he was one of (?The sons)... [2 second break in transmission] the people who were opposed to all provocations of John Garang. [passage omitted]

Agreements Signed During Talks With Libyan Group
LD0312151988 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] The Libyan Arab-Sudanese talks at the joint action committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation held during the last few days within the framework of the Libyan Arab delegation's visit to fraternal Sudan, have culminated in the signing of a number of joint agreements which might bolster relations and create a number of joint benefits in the interest of Arab people in both countries. Brother Salih Mubarak al-Shamikh, secretary of the General People's Committee for Communications and Maritime Transport, who is also the chairman of the Libyan Arab side at the joint action group, has given the following details to the Voice of Greater Arab Homeland.

[Begin Al-Shamikh recording] Proceeding from the brother leader of the revolution's principled stands and continuous struggle for the sake of the Arab nation's [word indistinct] causes and to complete the unitary meeting between the Jamahiriyah and Sudan, and proceeding from the historical reality that we are one nation, a high ranking delegation led by the brother Commander in Chief of the Libyan Arab forces has visited fraternal Sudan. As a result of this visit, the minutes of cooperation and integration in the economic, technical, and social spheres were signed. One of the highlights of the minutes was the agreement to provide fraternal Sudan with 8,400,000 tons of oil. An additional agreement guaranteeing credit for Sudan's exports to the value of around 100 million Libyan dinars per year was also signed.

Agreement was also reached to build a unionist highway within the framework of the two countries' aspirations and unitary orientations—a highway which would link Arab East to Arab Maghreb and Sudan East and West as well as link Jamahiriyah directly to Sudan. It was also agreed to increase [words indistinct] by setting up a maritime link between the two countries and linking the two countries with more maritime routes. The minutes stipulated the building of Al-Fatih Hospital in Sudan—a 400-bed hospital. The minutes also dealt with cooperation in the fields of agriculture, industry, trade, [words indistinct] and education. The minutes also stipulated the establishment of cultural centers and [word indistinct] the two countries' radios.

In addition to the meeting of the joint action committee for economic and technical cooperation, there is, of course, the Political Committee Joint Action Group which will examine and discuss the draft proposal of a union agreement between the two countries, which was agreed to in Tripoli lately. At the conclusion of this visit, a political statement expressing the progress made in this draft proposal will be issued. Thank you. [end recording]

Libya's Jabir Meets With Al-Turabi
LD0412103388 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0400 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir received at his residence in Khartoum yesterday evening Dr Hasan al-Turabi, the secretary general of the Islamic Patriotic Front and justice minister of sister Sudan. The meeting was attended by the secretary of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau to Sudan.

Defense Minister Meets Chadian Interior Minister
LD0212211088 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 Gmt 1 Dec 88

[Text] Retired General 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil, defense minister and acting interior minister, yesterday met at his office in the General Command Ibrahim Muhammad, the Chadian interior minister and his delegation. The Chadian interior minister briefed 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil on the results of the talks held recently in Baghdad to achieve peace in Chad.

The defense minister and acting interior minister stressed Sudan's interest in supporting peace efforts in Chad due to Sudan's firm stand on strengthening relations between brothers, and because of the good neighbourliness and mutual trust between it and all African states. His Excellency thanked the Iraqi [as heard] Government for the efforts it had made to establish peace and stop the bloodshed in Chad.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh ibn Umar, leader of the Chadian opposition.

Bahrain

U.S. Secretary of Defense Arrives in Manama

JN0512075688 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0725 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Manama, 5 Dec (WAKH)—U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci arrived in Manama this morning on a 2-day visit to Bahrain during a tour of a number of regional states. The U.S. secretary will hold talks with Major General Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Khalifah, Bahraini defense minister, on bilateral relations and issues of common interest.

Carlucci was received upon arrival by Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Khalifah, defense minister; Sam Zakhem, U.S. ambassador to Bahrain; Shaykh 'Abdallah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, chief of staff; assistant chiefs of staff; and high-ranking officers of the Bahraini Defense Force.

Gives Message to Amir

JN0512102288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0930 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Manama, 5 Dec (WAKH)—Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah has received a written message from U.S. President Ronald Reagan on bilateral relations and consultations on issues of mutual concern.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci delivered the message when the amir of Bahrain received him here today.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, Defense Minister Staff Major General Shaykh Khalifah ibn Ahmad Al Khalifah, Shaykh Salmam ibn Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah [title not given], the U.S. ambassador to Bahrain, and Staff Lieutenant Colonel Shaykh Hamad ibn Ahmad ibn Muhammad Al Khalifah, director of the Armed Forces General Command's office.

Confers With Counterpart

JN0512115888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1120 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Manama, 5 Dec (WAKH)—A round of official talks was held in Manama today between Defense Minister Staff Major General Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Khalifah and U.S. Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci. The talks were attended on the Bahraini side by Chief of Staff Shaykh 'Abdallah ibn Salman Al Khalifah and his assistants. U.S. Ambassador to Bahrain Sam Zakhem attended the talks on the U.S. side. They reviewed bilateral relations and issues of common interest.

Saudi Arabia

Ambassadorial Ties With USSR To Resume 'Soon'

JN0412082688 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 4 Dec (WAM)—Today's issue of the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD says that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the USSR will resume diplomatic ties on the ambassadorial level soon and a joint statement will be issued simultaneously in the capitals of the two countries.

The newspaper quoted a Western diplomatic source as saying that recent fruitful contacts have resulted in an agreement in principle to resume diplomatic ties between the two countries. Thus, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will be the last GCC member state to establish diplomatic ties with Moscow.

Soviet, Mujahidin Officials Hold Joint Meeting

Arrive for Talks

LD0312183388 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1727 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 3 Dec (SPA)—An official source has made the following statement to SPA:

A joint meeting will be held in Saudi Arabia at the request of the Afghan muhahidin and the Soviet Government to discuss issues in order to reach a just solution to the Afghan problem.

Mr Burhanuddin Rabbani, spokesman for the Afghan mujahidin, arrived in the Kingdom last night. He is accompanied by Shaykh Sigbatullah Mujadeddi [head of the Afghan National Liberation Front], 'Abdul Qadir Karyab, Mr 'Ali Akbar, Mr Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, and Mr Muhammad Eshaq.

Mr Yuriy Vorontsov, USSR first deputy foreign minister and Soviet ambassador to Afghanistan, also arrived in the Kingdom this evening. He is accompanied by Yuriy Alekseyev, chief of the Middle East Countries Department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry; Soviet Foreign Ministry adviser Arshin [name as received]; and Sizbyukin, director of the Middle East Department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry [name and title as received]. [passage omitted]

The source concluded by saying: While the Kingdom welcomes this meeting, it looks forward with great hope that the meeting will achieve its aims.

Meetings Begin 3 Dec

LD0312221588 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2157 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 3 Dec (SPA)—At 2230 [1930 GMT] today, the first meeting took place between the Afghan Mujahidin, headed by Mr Burhanuddin Rabbani, chairman of the Islamic Alliance of Afghan Mujahidin, and on the Soviet side by Yuriy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister. It was attended by members of both delegations.

This is the first direct official meeting between the two sides. The meeting continued until midnight. The two sides discussed all aspects of the Afghan problem. The talks are expected to resume on Sunday Morning.

2d Round of Talks Held

LD0412142688 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1405 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Riyadh—The second round of Soviet-Afghan talks was held today at 0930 between the delegation of Afghan mujahidin led by Burhanuddin Rabbani, chairman of the Islamic Alliance of Afghan Mujahidin, and the Soviet delegaton led by Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Vorontsov. The session lasted 2 and ½ hours. Various issues related to the situation in Afghanistan were discussed.

Final Meeting Held

LD0412224688 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2220 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Riyadh (SPA)—The third and last meeting between the Afghan mujahidin and the Soviets was held between 1930 and 2100 tonight.

The Afghan delegation was led by Burhanuddin Rabbani, chairman of the Islamic Alliance of the Afghan mujahidin, while the Soviet delegation was led by Yuriy Vorontsov, the first deputy foreign minister and the Soviet ambassador in Kabul.

During the meeting the settlement of the Afghan problem was discussed.

Reportage on Visit of Iraq's 'Izzat Ibrahim

RCC Chairman Arrives

JN0312212688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Jeddah, 3 Dec (INA)—RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim, accompanied by Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, Saudi education and acting higher education minister arrived in Jeddah this evening.

Ibrahim was received at the airport by Prince Majid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Mecca region governor; Major General Salih al-Hudayyan, military commander of the western region; and a number of military and civil officials.

Meets With King Fahd

JN0312212188 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Riyadh, 3 Dec (INA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, received here this afternoon RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim.

During the meeting, 'Izzat Ibrahim conveyed the greetings of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to his brother King Fahd, the custodian of the two holy shrines.

The meeting was attended by Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, and the members of the delegation accompanying 'Izzat Ibrahim.

The RCC vice chairman expressed the pride of Iraq and its appreciation for the Saudi stands supporting and backing Iraq in the latter's confrontation against Iranian aggression and its confrontation against challenges facing the Arab nation.

King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz renewed his congratulations on the victory scored by Iraq and said: It is a victory scored for the entire Arab nation and a source of pride for future generations. His majesty the Saudi monarch affirmed that the victory achieved by Iraq uplifted the Arabs' status, as it was achieved while vindicating right and dignity.

The meeting was attended on the Saudi side by 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister; Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, education and acting higher education minister.

On the Iraqi side, the meeting was attended by Nuri Isma'il, Foreign Ministry under secretary, the Iraqi ambassador to Saudi Arabia, and a number of officials.

Afterward, His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz held a closed meeting attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz with 'Izzat Ibrahim.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz hosted a dinner banquet in honor of RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim. The banquet was attended by Badir ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy commander of the National Guard; Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, education minister and acting higher education minister; Muhammad ibn 'Abd al-Rahman al-Shaykh, chief of the Royal Protocols; and a number of their highnesses the ministers, princes, and officials.

Departs 5 Dec

LD0512095388 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0900 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Al-Madinah, 5 Dec (SPA)—'Izzat Ibrahim, deputy chairman of Iraqi RCC, left Al-Madinah this morning after a visit to the Kingdom during which he met the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al- 'Aziz, and convyed to him the greetings of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. He also performed the rites of minor pilgrimage and visited the Prophet's Mosque. [passage omitted].

Papers Ask Shultz To Reconsider 'Arafat Visa

PM0212143188 Jeddah SAUDI GAZETTE in English 28 Nov 88 p 6

[Editorial: "Unwise Decision"]

[Text] The United States has finally rejected 'Arafat's request for a visa which he needed to address the UN General Assembly on December 1. New York, the site of the United Nations headquarters, is America' sovereign territory and the U.S. government may or may not allow anyone to visit that city. But some other factors also have to be considered when making a decision about allowing a person to visit that city for attending a UN session.

'Arafat did not intend to visit the United States when he applied for a visa. The only purpose he had was to visit the United Nations and address its General Assembly. Again, it is the United Nations that wants him to speak to the General Assembly, particularly after the PLO's acceptance of the UN Resolutions 242 and 338.

Thus, the proposed visit was in the sequel to the recent session of the Palestine National Council and the United Nations is genuinely interested in getting a firsthand report on the PNC decisions from the man who was directly involved in the passage of those resolutions. The UN wants peace in the Middle East; the United States also makes similar claims. And an 'Arafat visit to the UN General Assembly might have given both the United Nations and the United States that opportunity to hear from him what his people actually want and how do they propose to move about it.

However, the United States moved on the wrong foot. Secretary of State George Shultz himself said that "the U.S. government has convincing evidence" of what he called PLO's "terrorism" and that 'Arafat, as PLO Chairman, "knows of, condones, and lends support to such acts...." For his information, others, including 'Arafat, also have convincing evidence of similar American acts. Leaving aside the activities of the CIA, the United States "knows of, condones, and lends support" to Israel's acts of terrorism and savage violation of human rights which are, apparently, so dear to the United States and to Shultz personally.

As Shultz was rejecting a visa to 'Arafat, UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar was briefing the world on the same day about israel's "serious human rights violations" in the occupied territories. While emphasising the need for a resolution of the Middle East problem "only ... through a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement," Perez de Cuellar noted that in the occupied lands "civilian deaths and injuries continue to be widespread and so do other serious violations of human rights".

This is not a verbal accusation that can disappear in thin air. Perez de Cuellar has made these revelations in an 18-page document consisting of summaries of reports on events in the occupied lands published in the Israeli newspapers, HA'ARETZ and the JERUSALEM POST, between September 1 and November 1. Shultz and his government cannot deny that they don't "know of", don't "condone" and don't "lend support" to these violations of human rights.

The point here is that if the United States has a justification for all that Israel is doing in the occupied territories, the PLO also has justification for its struggle and the way it is being run. Instead of going into semantics, the United States is expected to act more intelligently. When President Reagan presented his Middle East peace plan, somewhere Palestinians were present there, whatever one calls them.

Earlier this year, Shultz himself shuttled between the Middle East capitals to revive hopes for peace and the Palestinians were there, again: he wished to meet Palestinians of the West Bank, but couldn't; and he ultimately met Palestinian Americans. What all this shows is that peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved if one ignores the Palestinians, and that the United States also implicitly recognises this fact.

Therefore, the United States decision not to grant a visa to 'Arafat is illogical and contradictory to the well-known American policy.

The U.S. decision shows that the United Nations is nothing but an extension of the United States State Department. If that's what the United States thinks, the world forum may cease to exist if one day Washington decides not to issue visas to UN delegates. The United States did not do that in the past. The Soviet Union continued to have its respresentative at the United Nations despite the worst type of relations with Washington.

Cuba is not on good terms with the United States but its delegates were allowed to remain in the United Nations. There are several examples of countries with which the U.S. had severed diplomatic relations but whose representatives at the United Nations were not touched. The PLO is in the same position today and should be treated the same way.

The State Department may refuse a visa if 'Arafat wants to go to Chicago to see Paul Findley or Charles Percy. But he doesn't intend such meetings. The visa can still be granted if Shultz, in his last three weeks in office, decides to act wisely and intelligently.

AL-YAWM Editorial Denounces Visa Decision

JN0112203888 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 30 Nov 88 p 3

[Editorial: "The Arabs and the U.S. Stand"]

[Text] In spite of the well-known U.S. stand which is hostile to the Arabs and completely biased toward the racist regime in Tel Aviv, and in spite of the optimism many have evinced in light of the new developments in the Palestinian arena, the U.S. decision refusing to grant Yasir 'Arafat a visa has come as a disappointment even to Western countries that are allies of the United States.

These countries viewed the U.S. decision from its legal aspect and stated that it is not based on any legal foundation, not to mention that it undermines the values of freedom and principles of human rights of which the biggest country in the free world boasts—great principles on which the early leaders of the United States built a civilization which has left its mark on contemporary history.

Why has the U.S. Administration crowned its record at the end of its term in office with this unjust stand toward the Palestinian people without any regard for the provisions of the agreement signed between the United States and the United Nations? No one ignores the answer to this question. This only confirms the facts that have been substantiated time and again through many U.S. stands which have been characterized by a complete bias toward the racist regime that rules in Tel Aviv.

These stands have allowed the forces of occupation to act in an intransigent, provocative, and irresponsible manner in occupied Palestine and in all the territories under Zionist occupation.

The peace-loving countries in the world have denounced this U.S. stand and have called on the United States to reassess its stand, which only proves the danger of the influence of the Zionist lobby on the U.S. Administration. Saudi Arabia was among the first countries to denounce this U.S. stand because it believes in the fairness of the Palestinian cause and Palestinian Arab rights.

There have been many signs confirming Washington's complete loyatly to Tel Aviv. The Arabs' only option now is to move in the direction that will safeguard their interests and place the Palestinian cause at the top of the priority list of the superpowers' agenda. This can be attained only if there is a united Arab stand, particularly in the wake of the proclamation of the independent Palestinian state, against which conspiracies have started to loom on the horizon, thus promising a series of new challenges to the Arabs.

What have the Arabs prepared to confront these challenges?

United Arab Emirates

Reportage on Visit of Libya's Al-Kharrubi

Conveys Message to President

LD0312093588 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 3 Dec (JANA)—Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, received Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi yesterday.

Col Mustafa al-Kharrubi conveyed to Shaykh Zayid a message of congratulations from the brother leader of the revolution and the Libyan Arab people on the occcasion of the 17th anniversary of the establishment of the UAE.

Col Mustafa al-Kharrubi met yesterday evening with Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE. Fraternal relations between the two sisterly countries were discussed and reviewed, in addition to a number of Arab and international issues of mutual interest, most importantly the Palestinian issue.

Meets With Defense Minister

JN0312185288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1755 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Dubayy, 3 Dec (WAKH)—UAE Defense Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid this evening received Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council, who is currently visiting the UAE. They discussed bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern.

Visits Towns, Attends Rally

LD0412102988 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0400 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi met yesterday with the UAE defense minister, Muhammad al-Maktum. The meeting was attended by the minister of state for cabinet affairs, Sa'id al-Ghayth. The two sides reviewed bilateral relations between the two fraternal countries and a number of Arab issues of mutual concern.

Col Al-Kharrubi had visited a number of towns in the UAE in the morning accompanied by the minister of state for cabinet affairs. He also attended part of the rally held in the town of Al-'Ayn on the occasion of the commemoration of the UAE's national day.

Attends Luncheon

LD0412130988 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan had a meeting today with Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi at [name indistinct] palace in Abu Dhabi.

Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan hosted a luncheon today in honor of Col Mustafa al-Kharrubi and his accompanying delegation.

Confers With President

JN0412162888 Manama WAKH in English 1555 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Dec 4 (GNA)—UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan received today member of the Libyan Revolutionary Command Council Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi.

They discussed current Arab and international developments as well as relations and cooperation between the two countries.

Shaykh Zayid gave a letter to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi dealing with ways to achieve Arab solidarity and boost joint Arab action in the next stage.

Al-Kharrubi who arrived on Thursday, has delivered a message to Shaykh Zayid from Al-Qadhdhafi on issues of common concern.

Ramadan Interviewed on Geneva Talks, Other Issues
JN0312184288 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic
1 Dec 88 p 20

[Interview with Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister, by the mission of the Kuwaiti Journalists Association, in Baghdad—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] To start with, we would like to congratulate you and the fraternal Iraqi people on victory and peace. We also congratulate you on the renewal of the people's allegiance to President Saddam Husayn. Our first question is on peace negotiations between Iraq and Iran and the progress they have made so far.

[Ramadan] You are welcome to our country. Congratulations on victory and peace are not only for us, they are for everyone, including those who did not have an honorable stand. We have triumphed despite the will of the enemies of Arabism and despite the anger that Zionism is trying to conceal. [passage omitted]

Let everyone know that Iraq and its leadership will not compromise any of our legitimate rights or any iota of our dear soil. The passage of time and pressure will not force us to offer concessions. The Geneva negotiations began in an illogical manner. Iran also set illogical conditions. Why does Iran propose the issue of the freedom of navigation in the Arabian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz? Are the Gulf and the Strait territorially inside Iran so that we negotiate with it on this issue and gain its approval of the freedom of navigation?

The Iranians very rudely claim that they have the right to inspect the ships that they suspect. Who does Iran think it is to have such a right? Had there been honesty, the discussion of this issue and Iran's claim on inspecting ships would have been rejected. Otherwise, we have the same right although we are far. But by force, we can bring any ship to the Iraqi ports. However, in such a case, the cease-fire would be cancelled.

The first paragraph of Resolution 598 means a cease-fire and the achievement of peace on land, at sea, and in the air without division. Moreover, the resolution itself, including all its 10 paragraphs, constitutes a lasting peace, equality, and mutual benefit for both sides. Is it reasonable to say that Iran allows free navigation while it inspects Iraqi ships? This shows clearly that Iran does not accept this resolution. We are certain that someone has proposed to Iran to raise this issue for something in return. We are aware of their intentions.

Everyone knows that we were the first to agree on Resolution 598. In fact, we were in the picture when it was being prepared before it was issued, we understand its spirit, and we were not surprised by it. In the memorandum that we sent to the UN secretary general 72 hours after the issuance of the resolution on 20 July 1987, we explained the framework of our acceptance of the resolution, and consequently we reject any other interpretation of the resolution.

We will adhere to our rights to the end regardless of the results. We will also continue to seek peace, to live in peace during the state of internal development, and to work along the fronts. This does not conflict with the principle of caution and vigilance. We are currently taking a respite, but willingly, and we are able to continue the march in a stronger manner. We have completed the demobilization of part of our Armed Forces, and determined the nature of their role and work in internal development in order to continue the march of development.

Our current programs will make all capabilities ready for fighting, contrary to what is taking place on the other side. This is at a time when the Iranians believe that they can promote the state of readiness among their peoples as if they are not aware of the results of their past actions which revealed that their peoples have no confidence in them. The proof is their repeated abominable defeats. The reasons of their defeats were not because they had small quantities of weapons, ammunition, and spare parts. This is because in 1988, Iran had the best kinds of weapons in the army and the guards. This urged the Iranian citizen to view the situation in a manner different from past years.

Despite all this we are confident that peace is coming even if they returned to fighting. They will sustain defeats that are stronger than their past defeats because the Iranian people have no confidence in and do not trust their leadership because of its past actions which have helped, to a large extent, undermine the Iranian citizen's ability and endurance.

[Question] Vice President Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf has recently said there will be agreement with Kuwait soon on resolving the borders issue. What is your comment?

[Ramadan] I do not want to go into detail about this issue. However, we see no problem between Iraq and Kuwait. The chances for a dialogue on this issue are very close, God willing, and they will not take a long time and will follow the path of the brothers in Jordan and Saudi Arabia. Hence, the brothers in Kuwait should be reassured and there will be nothing but good for everyone.

[Question] What is your stand now on the Iranian opposition present in Iraq in view of the current cease-fire. How will this opposition be dealt with in the expected peace phase?

[Ramadan] We will honestly implement all that we will agree upon with the Iranian side according to the principles which we have stated and advocated. We will also

abide by the principle of noninterference in internal affairs if a peace agreement is reached on condition that the Iranian side should abide by the same principle.

However, this does not mean and should not be wrongly understood that we will present the opposition on a silver plate to Iran. The opposition will be given the choice to move to any country it likes. Opponents who wish to stay in Iraq and respect our commitment will be welcomed. There will be no bargaining under any circumstances.

[Question] There is talk about Iraq's debts which accumulated as a result of war. What have been your measures to pay, reduce, and reschedule them? What is your opinion on the proposals made by his highness the amir of Kuwait regarding exempting world states from their debts and crystallizing the rich states' stands to help the poor states?

[Ramadan] Iraq's debts began in 1982 due to the war requirements. However, our debts are linked to our capability and to our economy's ability to contain them. Praise be to God, we have not fallen in the trap of the World Bank and the IMF, both of which have tried more than once to trap us by offering temptations and facilities in order to provide needed liquidity. We obtained loans from eastern and western companies and states. In 1984, our technical committees met with the creditor states and companies and they defined a way to pay these debts conforming with our circumstances.

These committees continue to carry out their work. However, oil prices will double our efforts because they create some difficulty in determining the rescheduling of debts with other parties. But just as we overcame this difficulty in 1986 we will also overcome it in this phase, especially since we are experiencing a state of peace, not war.

What his highnesss the amir of Kuwait has called for enjoys appreciation and support. I believe it aims to create an appropriate ground for a new international economic program which will establish justice, terminate the developed states' exploitation of the developing states, and end the large contradiction whose outcome can only be continued exploitation which is always a factor of tension in the world.

[Question] How do you view the Palestine question's future after proclaiming an independent Palestinian state?

[Ramadan] I cannot give an opinion on this issue. Owners of the Palestine question were the ones who proclaimed the state so they are fully aware of the outcome of what they decided and, consequently, of the future of this question. Moreover, we are their brothers who have supported them. This is our course regarding a step which they have made out of their conviction. We do not claim to be more eager for their cause than they are. We will help and support them in their convictions and will not obstruct their efforts.

Moreover, we were pleased with the recent PNC outcome, particularly the enhancement of unity among Palestinian parties. This outcome was also a clear positive mark which increased the PLO's connection with the uprising and foiled the attempts to cast doubts between the PLO's leaders and the uprising. [Question] What will be Iraq's response to the Iranian intransigence regarding the Shatt al-'Arab subject? Will its diversion affect the future of relations between the two countries? [Ramadan] Shatt al-'Arab is not the only topic in the negotiations, but it marks the beginning of the negotiations. Our stand on the Shatt al-'Arab is known and we do not want to talk about it in advance. You know that we did not wish to talk about the subject of sovereignty over Shatt al-'Arab within the first article of the cease-fire resolution. However, we asserted the need for the cease-fire and the start of negotiations. The cease-fire must include cease-fire in sea, land, air; freedom of navigation in the Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz; and the beginning of the Shatt al-'Arab clearing under international supervision so that it will become usable and we can benefit from it. But the Iranians rejected this and referred the subject to the 1975 agreement. You know the circumstances of this agreement.

After 8 years of war, all matters which were imposed on us under unnatural circumstances must change so that we can remove all causes of tension between the two countries if we really want to achieve a permanent peace. They must also change so that none of the two sides feel that injustice was done to it and may find reasons for starting another war at any time.

During the shah's era, the Iranian artillery used to bomb areas in northern Iraq and its range was 60 km inside our territory. Our military position was weak at the beginning of the revolution and rebels in the north were provided with artillery support from Iran and were supplied with weapons, ammunition, and medicines in a blunt and direct intervention.

As a result of these circumstances, a solution was reached by which Iran was given half of the Shatt al-'Arab in return for its abstention from intervention in our domestic affairs. The borders were also demarcated according to previous agreements. This meant that Iran had to withdraw from Iraqi areas such as Sayf Sa'd, Zayn al-Qaws, and others. Any violation of the 1975 agreement would have nullified it.

However, these two areas remained under Iranian control during the Shah's era, and were not handed back to Iraq. The Shah has gone, and Khomeyni came and the situation remained the same. Iranian intervention in our domestic affairs has even increased by encouraging sectarianism and carrying out assassinations and this has made us consider the 1975 agreement null and void.

If the Iranian side now insists that the subject of freedom of navigation is not covered by Resolution 598, then we consider their insistence on the validity of the 1975 agreement a violation of the same resolution since the fourth article did not state the need to adhere to the 1975 agreement, but it called for the meeting of both sides on the negotiation table and for holding direct dialogue in order to reach an acceptable solution. This means that the articles of the 1975 agreement do not have to be observed.

On our part, we think that 8 years of war call for a new agreement. If we have to refer to an old agreement, then we will choose an older agreement which was not nullified by either party. We will not accept an agreement that was canceled unilaterally or by both parties.

It is better, therefore, to reach a new agreement without trying to go back to old files. The state of affairs in which we are living is a new one that resulted from the tension between Iraq and Iran, and we must remove all causes of this tension. The blood and sacrifices that we gave during 8 years of war must be crowned by the removal of injustice against us, not to prolong it. This is clearly our position and we will not retreat from it.

As for the subject of the Shatt al-'Arab diversion, this subject is under study. It has nothing to do with Iran. It is purely an Iraqi affair

We wish to coexist peacefully with the Iranians. However, wishes are different from reality. The Iranians' designs in the Arab area are old ones. Khomeyni and those who came before or will come after him have not hesitated in trying to achieve their designs when they have the opportunity. In all cases, we do not want to return to old history because everybody knows our Arab borders. If, God forbid, we become weak in the future, they will demand the whole of the Shatt al-'Arab and consider it an Iranian river like they consider Mohammerah [Khorramshahr], Abadan, and the coastal strip Iranian territories.

We say that the Shatt al-'Arab is Arab and Iraqi. They are calling it a new name, the common Shatt, and they have proposed this during the current negotiations. The reason behind this new name is the desire not to discuss the subject, because it is a common one as they claim.

[Question] After the cease-fire on the Iraq-Iran war, the western media began to propagate news reports about Gulf concerns regarding the increasing Iraqi military capabilities and Iraq's aspirations to impose its hegemony on the region's states in particular and on the Arab world in general. What is your comment on this?

[Ramadan] What is being propagated and circulated about this issue emanates from hostile parties that harbor a deep hatred toward Iraq and the Arabs. These malicious parties have been disturbed by Iraq's victory in the war, as this victory harmed their interests in the region, especially the British interests. You are aware of the British background in the Arabian Gulf region and Iraq.

You are also aware of how the British deal with the region's affairs and events as if they were the masters of this region. They had never imagined in their wildest dreams that the war would end like this and that it would produce these results.

Their behavior is dictated by their malice toward us. We knew that they sent their envoys to the Gulf states to warn them of Iraq. You can imagine Britain's eagerness to protect the Gulf states and safeguard their interests! And from whom? From Iraq. How am I to talk about this issue? Iraq is a part of the Arab nation. It has always served this nation's interests and defended them with all of its capabilities. Besides, the Iraqi Army's victory has saved the Arabs from a calamity about which neither Britain nor anybody else can do anything.

We are quite certain and confident that the fraternal Arabs, especially in the Arabian Gulf states, are aware of the truth pertaining to these issues and affairs. We will stand alongside them and alongside any Arab when he is subjected to foreign aggression or pressure. [passage omitted]

[Question] Iraqi-Egyptian relations have recently developed noticeably. The same thing applies to the relations with the majority of the Arab states. Do you believe that it is high time for Egypt to be readmitted to the Arab League?

[Ramadan] Our relations with fraternal Egypt are proceeding well. They have made large strides in all areas of bilateral cooperation. As you know, bilateral cooperation in economic fields is discussed on the levels of the prime ministers of both states. It has been decided recently that the two countries' joint higher committee meetings will be held once every 6 months instead of once every year. Bilateral cooperation is being demonstrated in accordance with the circumstances of the two states, but with sincere intentions.

As for Egypt's return to the Arab League, we clarified our stand on the issue at the Amman summit. We called for this return, gave priority to its return to Arab ranks, and advanced clear and well-known justifications for this return. We want Egypt to seriously contribute to the atmosphere of joint Arab action so that we will be able to help it move away from the other trench. The mere restoration of bilateral relations does not achieve this objective. We want Egypt to attend Arab League meetings so that it can discuss with fraternal Arabs all Arab issues and commit itself to implementation of the resolutions adopted.

Why are we content with the restoration of bilateral diplomatic relations? Egypt's absence from Arab ranks and contenting ourselves with the restoration of bilateral diplomatic relations with it keeps Egypt away from adherence to any pan-Arab commitment. This has not been clear to all parties. It has been clear to some, but not so clear to others. Some demand that Egypt abrogate the Camp David accords. But, are we in a position that allows us to help it abandon these accords and announce this abandonment? Let us behave as politicians. What are the Camp David accords? And does the demand that they be torn away pertain to tearing the accords away in words or deeds?

If Egypt returns to the Arab League and if its president attends any Arab summit and displays commitment to its resolutions, including those pertaining to the Palestine question, he would react, when asked about his position, by saying that he is expressing the desire of an Arab state to commit itself to an Arab decision. He would respond to any party that might attempt to exert pressure on him by asking that party to exert that pressure on the remaining Arab states. In brief, Egypt's return to the Arab League is an important pan-Arab demand. Also, Egypt is not pleased being outside the Arab community, as it would strengthen this community and and be strenthened by it. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Visit of Libya's Al-Kharrubi

Arrives With Delegation

JN0412171788 Baghdad INA in English 1648 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 4, INA—A 26-member Libyan delegation arrived here today on a few days visit to Iraq.

The delegation is led by Col. Mustafa al-Kharrubi member of Libya's Revolutionary Command Council.

Meets With Industry Minister

JN0512102688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Dec (INA)—Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization, met with Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, Revolution Command Council member in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, and his accompanying delegation here today.

The talks, which were attended by the under secretary of the Industry and Military Industrialization Ministry and the Libyan charge d'affaires in Baghdad, dealt with bilateral industrial and economic relations and ways of promoting them.

Sees Saddam Husayn

JN0512134488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the Revolutionary Command Council in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, and his accompanying delegation.

They discussed fraternal relations between the two sisterly countries and scopes of their promotion as well as joint Arab action.

Attending the meeting were Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and minister of state for foreign affairs; the president's secretary; and the Libyan charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Saddam Husayn Congratulates Benazir Bhutto

JN0412111288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Dec (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has sent a congratulatory cable to Mrs Benazir Bhutto on her selection as Pakistani prime minister.

In his cable, his excellency the president said: It pleases us, on the occasion of your being named prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, to send you in our name in person and on behalf of Iraq the warmest congratulations wishing you success in your mission and wishing the friendly Pakistani people prosperity and progress.

His excellency the president affirmed the need to enhance ties of friendship between Iraq and Pakistan to serve the two peoples' interests and enhance bilateral cooperation to achieve peace and security in our region and the world.

UN Observers Commander Arrives in Baghdad

JN3011124088 Baghdad INA in English 1215 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 30, INA—General Slavko Jovic, commander of the U.N military observers supervising ceasefire between Iraq and Iran arrived here today on a week-long visit to Iraq.

The UNIIMOG commander makes shuttle trips between Baghdad and Tehran to supervise effectiveness of ceasefire which was put into force between the two countries on 20th last August.

Shamir Given 21 More Days To Form Government
TA0512143988 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1415 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] President Hayim Herzog has granted Yitzhaq Shamir the maximum period of time accorded by the law to form a government—namely, 21 days. President Herzog again called for the establishment of a broad-based government, and even said as much to Yitzhaq Shamir. The president said he hopes Mr Shamir will heed his repeated calls for the establishment of such a government.

Council of Torah Sages, Degel Hatora Back Shamir
TA0412190188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says he will ask for an extension of a few days from President Herzog after tomorrow's deadline for forming a government. At this hour in Bene Beraq, the chances of Shamir being able to form a narrow coalition are being determined as the Agudat Yisra'el Council of Torah Sages continues to deliberate on whether to back Labor or Likud. Representatives from both major parties have presented their cases, as Le'a Zinder reports from Bene Beraq:

[Begin recording] This is the first time that politicians from other parties have ever been allowed to address the Council of Torah Sages. Today, the Wysznitz Hotel in Bene Beraq dramatizes the escalating involvement of the ultraorthodox parties in Israel's political life. Likud ministers Ari'el Sharon and Yitzhaq Moda'i were practically carried into the Wysznitz Hotel by a seething mass of black-robed, black-bearded Agudat Yisra'el supporters and yeshiva students.

Photographers and reporters were swept aside. Then after a brief struggle, Sharon was able to tell reporters that he and Moda'i had brought a document signed by Prime Minister Shamir and seven of the Likud ministers. The document contained a commitment to the Who Is a Jew amendment and other matters, most of them financial. Sharon said that although five ministers had not signed the document, it is binding on all of the Likud ministers.

When he left the Council chamber, Yitzhaq Moda'i called this opportunity to come here another miracle of Hanukkah. As Sharon and Moda'i were swept out by the black-robed lookers-on, the two Labor representatives—Refa'el 'Edri and Minister Hayim Bar-Lev—were swept in. Like the Likud representatives, they had to cool their heels for 15 minutes or so before they were admitted to the Council.

Hayim Bar-Lev said as he left that he had brought no documents to the Council. He said he had told the rabbis the meaning of a narrow Likud-led government. He said he brought no new commitments on the Who Is a Jew question. He said he had received the impression that the Council favored a solution to Who Is a Jew based on a consensus of the Jewish people and not on coercion.

The Council of Torah Sages is still deliberating. There are reportedly deep divisions of opinion among them. Their decision here tonight could determine who will be the next prime minister of Israel. [end recording]

Likud minister David Levi met this afternoon with Foreign Minister Peres on the possibility of establishing a broadly-based government. Levi, who initiated the meeting, said afterwards that the discussion was good, and that he does not see an unbridgable gap between Labor and the Likud. It was decided to place a news blackout on details of the meeting.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 4 December reports: "Our diplomatic correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Shim'on Peres and David Levi met privately at Levi's initiative and discussed the possibility of forming a broad-based government. At the conclusion of the meeting, Levi said there was no gap between the positions of the two sides, and that after consulting Peres this morning he had found a readiness by him as well to set up a broad-based government. Levi stated that it was an initial and preparatory meeting."]

Commenting on the Levi-Peres talks, Prime Minister Shamir said they could be profitable, but he told the Voice of Israel that the Likud is now centering its efforts on forming a narrow coalition.

Meanwhile, negotiations between Degel Hatora and the Likud resume this evening at the office of Finance Minister Nisim. In a meeting between the two parties this morning, there was disagreement concerning funds demanded by Degel Hatora for housing, education, and for the ultraorthodox community.

This has just come in now from the newsroom. Our reporter Le'a Zinder says unofficial word has just emerged from the meeting of the Council of Torah Sages that the Council will order Agudat Yisra'el to ally with the Likud, not Labor. [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1830 GMT on 4 December adds: "The Council of Torah Sages decided this evening that Yitzhaq Shamir is their candidate to form the government."]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 4 December reports: "The coalition agreement between Degel Hatora and the Likud was signed a short time ago. Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh reports that Degel Hatora will receive the Immigration

Absorption portfolio and the management of education for the ultraorthodox. The agreement was earlier approved by Rabbi Schach. The Likud bloc now has 65 Knesset Members."]

Likud MK's 'Angered' Over 'Hasty Promises'
TA0512110688 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Dec 88 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Mikhal Yudelman]

[Text] Several Likud Knesset members [MK's] were angered yesterday by the party leadership's "hasty promises" to Agudat Yisra'el concerning the "Who's a Jew" amendment.

Criticizing Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and the Likud ministers who signed the commitment to Agudat Yisra'el to change the Law of Return, a number of Knesset members said yesterday that they would refuse to vote for the amendment.

"Why are they making promises without asking anyone in the party?" Likud sources asked. Four Likud MKs who have reportedly said they would not support the amendment are Sara Doron, Zalman Shoval, Yig'al Hurvitz and Uri'el Linn. At least six others maintain that the proposed amendment violates their principles.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 5 December in a page one report by Mikhal Yudelman and Andy Goldberg adds that "earlier yesterday, ministers Moshe Nisim, Moshe Arens, David Levi, Avraham Sharir and Yig'al Hurvitz refused to sign the document of commitments presented to the Council of Torah Sages yesterday, claiming that Aguda's demands would be far too costly."]

Rabin: Beilin 'Torpedoed' Broad-based Government
TA0512074588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Shalom Qital and Razi Barqay—live]

[Text] [Qital] Good morning, Mr Rabin.

[Rabin] Good morning.

[Qital] We have read your statement. I must say it is not everyday that you publish such a sharp statement on party issues. You referred to certain figures in the Labor Party who foiled the possibility of a broad based government. Can you tell us who these figures are?

[Rabin] Look, I do not think that I have to spell out names. The argument in the Labor Party is over the way, the direction, and what is to be done in view of the election results. At first we tried to form a narrow based government led by us, although the chances for that were slim. We all took action, all of us together, until all the ultraorthodox parties notified the president that they recommended that Mr Shamir form the government.

It became obvious at that stage that, according to the president's decision, Mr Shamir was leading in the race. We did not stop the talks. At a later stage the Likud approached us with a proposal to set up a broad based government centered around the Likud and the Alignment. Mr Peres and Mr Shamir agreed on a 2-member team from each side to conduct the preliminary talks. The talks lasted 1 week, after which we received some answers. Peres, myself, and the Alignment ministers all believed these answers were a basis for a broad based government with agreed upon guidelines, parity on the issue of portfolios, and an Inner Cabinet to prevent mutual coercion.

We took this to the party bureau on the assumption that the possibility of a broad based government would be weighed against going into opposition. This is, however, where a dirty trick was performed by—first and foremost—Peres' poodle, Mr Beilin, without the knowledge of the negotiating team, without the knowledge of the Alignment ministers. In fact, he concealed information from the bureau members during the debate.

I think that move torpedoed the possibility which then existed to establish a broad-based government, with a chance for electoral reform in the more distant future. The electoral system will not be changed until the Likud and the Alignment gain sufficient mutual trust, and stop suspecting each other of trying to gain the small—mainly the religious—parties.

[Barqay] Mr Rabin, may I interrupt you here? You have spoken of futile maneuvers. You used a very sharp expression when referring to Knesset Member Beilin. However, you yourself were party to at least a portion of that futile maneuver. It is a fact that I saw you at Rafi Edri's house during the night sessions with the Agudat Yisra'el and Degel Hatora people. Those were two sessions in which you yourself took part.

[Rabin] It is true, I came to participate and to listen. I am glad I did because that was where I realized that there were two documents which had not been presented either to me, or to the negotiating team, or to the party bureau. The two documents were an addendum to the document signed that day in Peres' office, and a letter from Knesset Member Beilin dated 29 November—1 day before the bureau convention where a decision regarding negotiations with the Likud was to be made. I am glad I was there. I came mainly to learn the truth because I felt—and I said so at the beginning of the bureau meeting—that the bureau was not hearing the whole truth.

[Qital] Mr Rabin, I will repeat a question I posed to Mr Peres. What happens now? Is there any chance for a broad based government?

[Rabin] Two things: First of all, if it has been ordained that we go into opposition, we will do that and make the best of it. At the same time, I still believe, as I did before, that the genuine solution of the problems the country and the nation confront does not lie in a narrow based government. Certainly not in an extreme right wing religious government, and I will not go into detail on the people who would receive various positions in such a government, if it is formed.

The other thing we have to do is make sure that the processes taking place within the Labor Party are not carried out behind the backs of those who were put in charge of them.

[Qital] Thank you very much, Mr Yitzhaq Rabin. Thank you, too, Razi Barqay.

Peres on Broad Government, Rabin Statement
TA0512062588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Telephone interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by Shalom Qital and Razi Barqay—live]

[Text] [Qital] Good morning, Mr Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Qital] The first question that occurs to me is very short and very simple. What happens now?

[Peres] There are two possibilities, and we have to be ready for both of them. The first is going into opposition. When you run in an election race, you must be ready to be in either the government or in the opposition. I have never rejected the possibility of a national unity government under certain conditions. If such a possibility arises, it will be examined. At this moment it seems to me that the trend is toward opposition.

[Qital] Our correspondent Razi Barqay is in our Tel Aviv studio. Go ahead, Razi.

[Barqay] Mr Peres, you have said that you do not reject a broad based government, subject to certain conditions. Does that mean that the previous conditions offered by Mr Shamir were acceptable to you?

[Peres] Yes. It was I who proposed them to the party bureau.

[Barqay] Does this mean that you are not demanding any additional conditions, such as rotation for instance?

[Peres] No. I would like to tell you something. There is one thing that has to be considered, and that is the bureau's decision. The bureau decided against joining Shamir's government for the duration of 4 years. There can be several interpretations of this. One interpretation is that we can join the government for a shorter period, to deal with issues which are vital to the state, such as the election reform for instance, or the political process. There are many different possibilities.

[Barqay] Your last remarks are somewhat surprising. We would like to be sure we understand you correctly.

[Peres] It surprises you because you constantly report things that I do not know where you heard.

[Barqay] We would indeed like to understand the precise nature of these things. Are you ready at this time to join a broad based government led by the Likud, on the basis of the proposals Yitzhaq Shamir made last week?

[Peres] On the basis of those proposals and in accordance with the party bureau's decision.

[Qital] I would like to ask a general question. What was the purpose of the intermezzo with Agudat Yisra'el, when it was almost certain that they would go with the Likud?

[Peres] The answer is very simple. Let us assume that a broad based government was formed. Matters have to be thought through to the end. When a broad based government was considered, it was to include the Likud, the Alignment, and the religious parties. Even in a broad based government each of the major parties wishes to have the religious parties' support for its political stands. We wage a constant battle because of the fact that the 18 religious Knesset members are, let us say, on the right-hand side of the political map, or at the extreme side of nationalism.

Therefore, even when discussing a broad based government, the Labor Party, the Alignment, wishes to have religious parties on its side on the political issues. After all, what was our goal? It was to form a government that would be able to cope with the country's central problems in the political, defense, and economic spheres. I believe the issues are interconnected. If there is no political process, there will be no economic rehabilitation either, and the security situation will also deteriorate. We tried the negotiations in order to achieve all this, and not in order to satisfy the demands of the religious factions, which can be either respected or opposed. This is something that some people outside the system do not understand. This was our goal.

[Qital] Yes, it is true that your aim was not to satisfy the demands of the religious parties. But the question is whether, while attempting to attain a majority for the political process, you paid a price that is too heavy in terms of the principles of the Labor Party.

[Peres] No. Had we paid a heavy price, perhaps we could have achieved more. We could not proceed with the issue of the Who Is a Jew amendment beyond the authority which the party bestowed on us. We told the

religious parties loud and clear that any change on that issue has to be ratified by the party's central committee. We did not have the authority to change this clause on our own.

[Barqay] Mr Peres, when you hear the defense minister's statement regarding people who performed futile maneuvers, do you recognize yourself as one of those people?

[Peres] Just a moment. I know you want to constantly, ceaselessly, sow dissent and controversy. You resort to hints, you seek sensation. I can talk to Yitzhaq Rabin, and need no one to mediate between us. I am familiar with his views, and if I want to clarify something with him, I will do that. Yitzhaq holds certain views, other comrades have different views. Every party has its difficult moments. I, for my part, call on all party members to maintain party unity and freedom of argument, abstain from being goaded by various reporters trying to spread all kinds of rumors, cause quarrels, and such.

There is an argument—I do not deny that. The argument lies in the fact that some people tried, let us say, to form a broad based government in order to avoid the problems of a right-wing narrow government. Others wanted to achieve more. There is nothing wrong with that.

[Qital] Yes. Mr Peres, with all due respect, I do not wish to enter a debate on what the media does or does not do. Razi Barqay's question about Rabin, however, was based on a public statement. This was no journalistic sensationalism, it was Mr Rabin's statement.

[Peres] Do you think Mr Rabin cannot spell out names? Is it up to Razi Barqay to do that for him? Mr Rabin is capable of stating his views. Why should Razi Barqay provide names or interpretations?

[Barqay] When Rabin referred to people in the Labor Party I do not think he meant the backbenchers.

[Peres] You can interpret it as you like. Rabin can express his opinions, but that is not the issue now. The Labor Party has always included people with different views and it always will. It is a democratic party. I hope everyone will maintain a restrained style. I know tempers flare sometimes, but I am used to that. I am used to the fact that there are differences and occasional personal tensions in any party, not only in ours.

[Barqay] Sir, will you now convene the bureau? I understand that after Yitzhaq Shamir goes to the president he will hold all the political cards. You, however, can call for a bureau convention to obtain a new version of the party decision. Or are you waiting for an explicit invitation from the prime minister?

[Peres] At this stage, I see no point in an initiative on our part if the Likud takes none. Shamir is the one empowered with forming a government. I wish to add something about the negotiations with Agudat Yisra'el which you asked about. I explained that it is true we are interested in the support of every possible religious party that would identify with our political stands, and that goes for both a broad and a narrow based government. By the way, during our negotiations with Agudat Yisra'el we made it clear that the agreement is not restricted to a narrow based government. The agreement could also have been valid for a broad based government. You have to read the documents carefully.

To come to the point, I think we went as far as we could. We cannot be as generous as the Likud on, say, the extreme religious issues. I knew in advance that this was our limitation. Nevertheless, the fact that six or seven voted for the agreement shows that a certain change has occurred even in Agudat Yisra'el. They too, cannot go to elections with the single issue of Who Is a Jew. The country is laden with problems: security, political, economic. I repeat: If we do not change the present electoral system, it will cause us indescribable difficulties.

It is now almost impossible to run the country. What happens after every election? Instead of waging a dispute over the vital issues, the two major parties vie for the favors of the religious parties. It is absurd. Therefore, first of all it is essential to change the system. That will allow us to have a functioning system and clear-cut election results. The election results we have at present are no results. The other thing that needs to be addressed is the political process that will pave the way for the progress and growth of the Israeli economy. There is a lot of work to do.

[Qital] Thank you very much, Mr Peres.

[Peres] You are welcome.

Rabin: Labor Bureau Decision 'Historical Mistake'
TA0512091988 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dayan—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Friedman] In an interview on the Voice of Israel this morning you used blunt language. When referring to Knesset Member Beilin, you termed him Peres' poodle. Did the poodle run away from home and have an independent affair, or did his master—that is, Shim'on Peres—lead him by the leash?

[Rabin] You will have to ask the master that.

[Friedman] Yes. In your opinion, was the secret document which you made public known to Shim'on Peres?

[Rabin] I do not have to answer on his behalf. Ask him.

[Dayan] But you know about the addendum, and you know that Mr Beilin signed it.

[Rabin] I do not want to say anything I am not certain about.

[Friedman] We reported this morning that you have already started talks with senior Likud figures about renewing the option of a broad-based government. What are the chances for that?

[Rabin] It is a pity you reported it, because I have not held any such talks. [passage omitted]

[Friedman] Mr Rabin, what is the reason for your vehement objection to having a broad based government on the principle of prime ministerial rotation?

[Rabin] Did I object? Has anyone offered it?

[Dayan] Mr Beilin contended last night on the 'Erev Hadash television program that you waived rotation a priori.

[Rabin] Anyone can say anything. It is a fact that there was an Alignment ministers' meeting where Ministers Bar-Lev and Shahal were instructed on the upcoming negotiations with Arens and Meridor in the preliminary talks. Minister Shahal asked Peres' office for written instructions. He was given his instructions in writing by Mr Nimrod Novik. I did not see it before hand. The matter of rotation was not included in it.

[Dayan] Finally, Mr Rabin, do you believe that the Labor Party—whether it goes into opposition or participates in any kind of government—is now facing a renewal of the old antagonism between you and Mr Peres? I am asking this in view of the sharp statements you have issued.

[Rabin] I have no doubt that had we joined a broad based government no controversies would have arisen. This is a matter-of-fact controversy between colleagues who believe that it was a mistake—perhaps a historical mistake—to decide as the bureau did last Wednesday when it refused to launch negotiations with the Likud. Those who supported this decision would have been happy to launch negotiations with the PLO, but not with the Likud.

I think it was a grave error which will lead us, to my great regret, to the opposition benches. I do not think, however, that this should necessarily cause party confrontations beyond the usual topical confrontations.

[Friedman] Does not someone have to pay for historical errors?

[Rabin] That we will see in the future.

[Dayan] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, we thank you very much.

Beilin on Rabin, Agudat Document, Peres

TA0512124388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Interview with Knesset Member Yosi Beilin by Shalom Qital, date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Qital] Yosi Beilin, you have heard Rabin's remarks. What is your reaction?

[Beilin] I will not stoop to his level. I think it is a shame Yitzhaq Rabin's old age does not do credit to his youth. I prefer to remember him as he was in his youth.

I prefer to refer to real arguments, such as the one I had with him over South Africa, and over his conduct toward the territories. In fact, I have had other arguments with him. In my party he represents one approach, while I represent another. Mine supports a political peace process, although I agree there is always room for true argument. His remarks are nothing new, and he will not succeed in drawing me down to his level of discourse.

[Qital] Let us leave the issue of style and level. Let us discuss the character of your argument with Rabin. As far as I could understand from Yitzhaq Rabin, your argument is over the style of management rather than ideology. He charges you with approaching Agudat Yisra'el with a document which you prepared without consulting the authorized people, that is, Yitzhaq Rabin.

[Beilin] I had no secret, covert, or private agreement with anyone. What happened was that on the eve of the Sages Council meeting, the Agudat Yisra'el Knesset members asked me to sum up for them in writing everything that had been achieved in the negotiations between them and our own negotiating team up until the day, 3 weeks earlier, when the president empowered Mr Shamir to form a government. I did that in order to enhance the chances of the Council of Sages deciding to form a joint government with the Alignment.

To a certain extent that letter had an impact, although it certainly was not the factor that made up their minds. It was an auxiliary factor. There was no need to bring such a letter to the knowledge of either the bureau or Mr Rabin. It was not a secret letter, anyone could and can see it now. That letter simply summed up everything we had achieved up to that date. By the way, the agreement we signed with them later is much more extensive than my modest letter.

[Qital] Yosi Beilin, beyond Rabin's doubtlessly offensive expression, there is perhaps a more substantive issue. Rabin accuses you—I do not wish to paraphrase his

offensive term—of being Peres' yes-man. Perhaps, after a long time, there has been a renewed rift between the two—Peres and Rabin—with Peres adopting a way which Rabin rejects.

[Beilin] So what?

[Qital] Perhaps this is bad for the Labor Party's image?

[Beilin] It is bad. If I tell you it is not, you will not believe me. Right now, however, the main point is where the party is heading. If we start a mud-slinging campaign, I guess we will be in a mess. I would be very glad if this could be stopped, and I am contributing toward this end by not repaying Rabin in kind. The argument is over substance. Yitzhaq Rabin has led us to a 4-year Likud-led government. Other people opposed this.

[Qital] Just a minute, it was not only Yitzhaq Rabin; Shim'on Peres would also have shared in the dividends of that.

[Beilin] It is true he supported that move. The gravest thing that happened was Yitzhaq Rabin's appearance on Moqed several weeks ago which was entirely unauthorized, and which was supposed to be a private interview. He did it on his own, but it dragged us all into the thing. What he did was set the negotiation terms of the Alignment, and all we could do afterwards was declare that the terms were not ours, that they were Yitzhaq Rabin's personal remarks.

He did it behind the Labor Party's back, setting down the terms which thus established the minimum—or perhaps maximum—terms of a national unity government. This was an incredible deed, and I opposed it. Mr Peres eventually came to accept it. [passage omitted]

Soviet Planes Depart With Hijackers, Crew, Money

TA0312212188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Both Soviet planes, their crews, the four hijackers, and the wife of one of them have left Israel, ending a drama which lasted nearly 28 hours. Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports that the money and weapons found in possession of the hijackers were also taken aboard the aircraft.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 3 December adds: "The leader of the hijackers of the Soviet plane which landed in Israel last evening is Pavel Yakshiyants, 38, a bus driver with a criminal past. The hijackers' team includes his wife, Tamara, 29, a radio technician, and three young people between 22 to 26 years old. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Yakshiyants arrived with a bus at a place where he was supposed to pick up kids, apparently to transport them to school, and in return for releasing them he received a large sum of money from the authorities. His wife mediated between him and the authorities with the help of communications equipment."]

Chief Superintendent Doron Bayt-Me'ir, head of the Central District interrogation department, told our correspondent that the five entered Israel illegally and were therefore detained. The police considered bringing them to trial, or bringing a judge to the detention center to extend their remand, but instead they were returned to the USSR today in accordance with a decision by the attorney general and the legal advisers to the Foreign and Interior Ministries. Our correspondent also reports that one of the hijackers asked for polit[illegible]al asylum but his request was rejected.

Our correspondent Yosi Qoren reports that in contacts with the USSR, the authorities there promised not to impose the death penalty on the four hijackers.

Knesset Member Shim'on Shitrit called on Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and the attorney general to prevent the deportation in accordance with the law regarding entry into Israel. To repeat, in the contacts the USSR pledged not to impose the death penalty on the hijackers.

Maj Gen Mitzna' Briefs Press on Hijacking

TA0212191288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1730 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Remarks by Major General 'Amram Mitzna', commander of the Central Command, during a news conference held at Ben-Gurion Airport, with the participation of Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin—live]

[Text] [Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe] Major General 'Amram Mitzna', how did the forces at the airport operate?

[Mitzna'] The IDF took over responsibility for the event according to a preprepared plan which involved deployment of forces, the formation of a command center, and the employment of other measures. We were prepared. We, of course, were prepared for the worst possible scenario. Fortunately, the landing, the negotiations, and the surrender went quickly.

[Unidentified correspondent] What was the sequence of events once it was known that the plane was in Israeli air space?

[Mitzna'] There was the stage when we learned that such a plane had already left and was on its way here. There was the deployment of forces. There were, of course, conflicting reports on its location and the time of its arrival. Information was arriving from different sources, including formal channels in Moscow which provided very accurate information. Later, toward the time when the plane landed, we instituted a stepped-up alert. Of course, the unknown details exceed the known ones.

The known facts were determined mainly when the plane was circling overhead and was about to land. During the landing, tension reached its peak. All the forces and systems were deployed. When the plane landed it received permission to turn off its engines. The doors opened, the first contact was made, and then of course, there was a reduction in tension: The crew descended first, and afterward, after some persuasion, the five hijackers also descended.

[Menashe] What do you know about the hijackers?

[Mitzna'] It was important for them to know that they really had landed in Israel. They wanted to see some documents. They were shown a document, but they did not know how to read it.

[Unidentified correspondent] Whose document?

[Mitzna'] They just wanted to see some document showing that they really had arrived in Israel.

[Menashe] Why Israel?

[Mitzna'] They wanted to see something in Yiddish, or at least a Star of David.

[Correspondent] Did somebody talk to them in Yiddish?

[Mitzna'] No, in broken English. We have enough Russian speakers in Israel.

[Correspondent] Did you speak to them?

[Mitzna'] I spoke to them only at a later stage.

[Correspondent] What did they say to you?

[Mitzna'] We had purely technical conversations.

[Correspondent] Why did they insist on coming to Israel?

[Mitzna'] I still do not know. They had several possibilities, of which they chose Israel.

[Menashe] Where did they think of going first?

[Mitzna'] They looked into several possibilities—as far as we know, various countries in the region, and apparently finally decided on Israel.

[Correspondent] You were, of course, prepared for a worse scenario. Were you surprised by the ease with which they surrendered?

[Mitzna'] As I have already said, we were prepared for any possibility, including of course, a worse situation. Were we surprised? According to the reports we had, we expected the situation would evolve more or less as it did.

[Menashe] When was your first air contact?

[Mitzna'] Very close to the landing. Contact with them in the air was merely technical, only talk about ground-to-air communication procedures.

[Correspondent] Did you speak to the hijackers in the air?

[Mitzna'] No, only with the crew.

[Correspondent] What will happen to the hijackers, the bandits?

[Mitzna'] The five hijackers were handed over to the police, as is the case with anybody who enters the country illegally.

[Correspondent] Did you take the ransom money which was on the aircraft, about $1 million in rubles?

[Mitzna'] It might help the IDF budget.

[Correspondent] What happened to the money?

[Mitzna'] We have it. Not in private hands, the security forces have it.

[Correspondent] What will happen to the aircraft and crew?

[Mitzna'] The aircraft is here. It will be moved to a spot where it will not block the airstrip. The crew is being looked after. They will meet with the Soviet representative in Israel. What will be decided afterward is not the IDF's concern.

[Correspondent] Are you leaving here with a grin about this episode, which looks like a parody about a plane hijacking?

[Mitzna'] I do not know if it is a parody or not. First, I am very pleased that it ended the way it did. There are many thoughts that cross your mind during the plane's landing about what could happen, and you envision the worst possible and most complex outcome. I do not have to describe the scenario when a Soviet plane with a Russian crew lands in Israel. Therefore, when it ended the way it did—the plane being transferred to the airport authorities, the crew handed over to the Air Force to be looked after, and the criminals handed over to the police—we are folding up and going home.

[Correspondent] Tell us something about political relations between the USSR and Israel; the rapprochement.

[Mitzna'] Do not exaggerate. I am the commander of the Central Command, and I deal with issues that are within my responsibility.

Rabin Expresses 'Astonishment' at USSR Action

TA0212182388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1728 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Remarks by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin during a news conference held at Ben-Gurion Airport with the participation of Chief of Staff Dan Shomron and 'Amram Mitzna', commander of the Central Command—live]

[Text] [Moti Amir] What is the situation now? Do we know what their aims were?

[Rabin] It appears—according to what we know from information the USSR Government supplied us through its representative in Israel—that this group is made up simply of thieves who took over a bus carrying children and took them hostage in the Caucasus. They asked for an aircraft and food in order to leave the USSR. They were armed with a short-barreled hunting rifle, and I think with four revolvers, and landed in Israel. They did not put up any resistance. They left the aircraft normally and handed over their weapons.

The five bandits are in the hands of the police, who will interrogate them. The crew is being handled by the Air Force. We will, of course, return the plane and crew to the Soviet Union. We will act in accordance with international law regarding the bandits. If there will be a formal extradition request, the Israeli legal authorities will consider it, and a decision will be made accordingly.

I can only express astonishment over how a superpower like the USSR permitted five ordinary bandits with four revolvers and one hunting rifle—although the children were already released, since not a single hostage, and certainly no children, arrived on the plane—to leave the USSR. Here, there was no attempt or thought of putting up a fight.

Shevardnaze Meeting With Levin 'Unprecedented'

TA0312180588 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Report by 'Oz Frankel]

[Text] In the wake of the hijacked plane affair, cooperation between the USSR and Israel during the past 24 hours has reached an unprecedented peak. Perhaps the most surprising news of all is the invitation received tonight by Arye Levin, head of the Israeli consular delegation in Moscow, to meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. This is really an unprecedented move.

The Soviet foreign minister expressed the Soviet Government's and the entire Soviet people's deep gratitude and appreciation for the noble and humane treatment by the Israeli Government of a barbaric act which occurs only rarely. There is no doubt that the Israeli Government did everything it could, Shevardnadze said. He also told the Israeli diplomat that he had received cables from various countries expressing appreciation and satisfaction with the way Israel had acted.

The meeting lasted 40 minutes. It was the first meeting between the head of the Israeli consular delegation—which as is known, is meant to deal with only technical, consular issues—with a Soviet political personality. This strengthens the belief that the strange affair we witnessed during the past 24 hours might lead to a warming-up in relations between Moscow and Jerusalem.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres received a report on the Shevardnadze-Levin meeting tonight, and expressed his satisfaction and hope that a way would be found to strengthen ties between the two countries further. Soviet television at 2100 [1900 GMT] tonight is expected to make an official statement on the Moscow meeting and the statement of gratitude by Foreign Minister Shevardnadze.

Peres on 'Significant' Change in Soviet Relations

TA0412065688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel on 4 December; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Frankel] Although bilateral relations do not hinge on one gesture or another, one cannot avoid the impression that relations between Moscow and Jerusalem became a few degrees warmer over the weekend, all because of a marginal, somewhat bizarre, and pathetic affair. For a brief moment over the weekend the consular delegations in Tel Aviv and in Moscow—which had so far served as diplomatic window dressing—operated as real representations, climaxing in the 40-minute meeting between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Arye Levin, the head of the Israel consular delegation. Last night Levin briefed Foreign Minister Peres over the phone, and Peres speaks today about a significant change in Israel's relations with the Soviet Union.

[Peres] The fact that Shevardnadze invited the head of our delegation in Moscow, that the meeting lasted as long as it did, that it was publicized, and that positive things were said in it is almost unprecedented in our relations with the Soviet Union in the last few years. I would like to hope this has a meaning beyond the current event. We want to go on developing the relations which have just begun.

[Frankel] Would you say that the consular, or quasi-consular, representations of Israel in Moscow and of the Soviet Union in Tel Aviv operated as full-fledged embassies in the last few days?

[Peres] As full-fledged representations? Yes, most definitely. They bypassed the limitations which had been placed on them. Of course, nobody was ready for such an event, but events sometimes make for such readiness. The presence of the representations, both in Israel and in Moscow, has now acquired a new significance.

[Frankel] Regarding the decision-making process: The Soviets asked for the extradition of the four hijackers or robbers, and we complied at once. There is no official extradition pact between Israel and the Soviet Union, yet we complied with the request surprisingly quick. Why?

[Peres] We had three legal options. The three of them were examined, and we chose the one we deemed most appropriate. The Russians also gave us a written commitment not to execute those people, and there was no sense in delaying or complicating the procedures.

[Frankel] A few words about the legal-technical side of the matter: In consultations held in Jerusalem last night it was decided to hand back the hijackers and the money according to the authority given to the border control officer not to allow the entry of foreigners to Israel. This arrangement was approved by the attorney general and the legal advisers of the Foreign and Interior Ministries. The alternative, that is the extradition pacts signed by the two countries, would have taken longer and Jerusalem wanted to close the matter as soon as possible.

Soviet Envoy Interviewed Following Hijacking
TA0512110988 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Dec 88 pp 1, 3

[Report by the diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] After nearly a year of discreet and uneventful consular activities, Georgiy Martirosov this weekend was suddenly thrust into the diplomatic limelight, serving as the Soviet Union's man-on-the-scene in the tense drama of the hijacked airplane. Martirosov, a seasoned Soviet diplomat and Middle East expert, earned high praise yesterday from Israeli officials for his professionalism and diplomatic savvy.

Martirosov returned the compliments and asked to express his personal "thanks and gratitude for the cooperation and help extended to us, which I could see with my own eyes."

In a rare interview, the granting of which appears to reflect the new warmth in relations between the two countries and the unusual accolades emanating from Moscow, Martirosov used adjectives such as "professional" and "efficient" to describe the Israeli response to the crisis. He said that "from the beginning there was an understanding here of the seriousness of the situation, and cooperation developed immediately. We met many people who cooperated."

In a blatant understatement, Martirosov said that his group operated during the weekend at a level "just a little bit higher" than that warranted by the limited official mandate which governs his group's activities here, and that there "was no problem in reaching anyone we needed." But he was careful to add that now that the affair is over, "I understand that our mandate remains the same." Martirosov, who said that he could not remember when he last slept, said that "this was an unusual situation and the six members of our group tried to do anything possible to solve the problem of the Israeli side."

Martirosov said that Israel had agreed in advance to return the hijacked airliner and its crew immediately. The return of the hijackers was held up until they were interrogated by the Israeli authorities.

"Then, after minutes of interrogation," he said, "the Israeli side proved to their satisfaction, 100 per cent, that these were very ugly criminals; that there was no political element involved; and we understood that the hijackers would be returned.

"It was plain to both sides that these were only criminals," Martirosov said, adding that from then on, the moment of their expulsion "was measured in hours."

Contrary to reports that Moscow chose Israel as the plane's destination from among the options offered by the hijackers, Martirosov said he understood that the hijackers themselves chose Tel Aviv.

He ascribed the hijackers' decision to their "intellectual level, which is, of course, very low, to say the least. They apparently believed that Israel was an anti-communist country that would never return them to the Soviet Union."

The Soviet Union has agreed in principle to reimburse Israel for some of the costs incurred in resolving the weekend affair, and officials from the two countries will be discussing the matter in the near future, Martirosov said.

'Anug: No Return to 'Square One' With Soviets
TA0512113188 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Dec 88 pp 1, 3

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Excerpt] "The ice was broken, the temperature went up, and we are not going back to square one." Yesha'yahu 'Anug, deputy director-general of the Foreign Ministry, was describing, in unusually emphatic terms, the effects of the hijack crisis on Israeli-Soviet relations.

'Anug is known in the Foreign Ministry as being especially circumspect and discreet, a "diplomat's diplomat." But, he was unusually outspoken yesterday as he summed up the successful conclusion of the weekend hijacking, in which he played a pivotal role.

"You can argue about the scope of the effect on the relations, but you cannot deny the fact of the change itself," 'Anug said in an interview.

"Tens of Soviet government officials, pilots and security men came here to help solve the problems, all with their preconceived notions, imbued with preconceptions about us. They were surrounded by men of flesh and blood, who treated them with warmth and respect. They were entertained in an officer's club at an Air Force base, and even saw Yevgeniy Yevtushenko on television."

"They must have undergone a total de-demonization of their image of Israel. And that change will reverberate throughout the whole system, up to the top."

The top, this weekend, was Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze, whose meeting with Israeli diplomat Arye Levin is described by 'Anug as "a gesture of unexpected magnitude, unequivocal in its intent to make an impact."

"The world hasn't turned upside down, but a decidedly human, emotional element was injected, perhaps freeing the Soviets of some of the chains which controlled their attitude towards us. And, it might be mentioned, the importance of emotions for the Soviets are well-known."

'Anug warns against any tendencies here to "cash in" on the new reservoir of Soviet goodwill. "Wisdom consists in knowing how to build a basis of a correct conjecture. We shouldn't rush in."

The Soviet Union's handling of the crisis, 'Anug says, was "realistic and to the point. They made no annoying demands. They were courteous and appreciative." 'Anug says that he was not concerned about a possible Soviet "trick".

'Anug sent out letters of thanks yesterday to all those involved in the hijack crisis, including the Soviet representative here. [passage omitted]

Soviet Poet Yevtushenko Arrives on 'Poetic' Visit

TA0312075088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Soviet poet Yevgeniy Yevtushenko has arrived in Israel. At Ben-Gurion Airport he said he has not come to Israel for a political visit, but for a poetic one. He said there are misunderstandings between the Soviet Union and Israel, but he hopes writers will close the gap between the two countries.

Bids To Improve Cultural Ties

TA0412145488 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 4 Dec 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by cultural affairs correspondent Miri Paz]

[Excerpts] Older than he looks in photographs, wearing a burgundy colored suit with a bright red tie, Yevgeniy Yevtushenko received the journalists waiting for him on Saturday night at the Tel Aviv Hilton Hotel. [passage omitted]

Yevtushenko denied that his current visit was partially arranged by the Israeli-Palestinian artists committee. "The person who officially invited me is Becky Freistadt [head of the cultural department of the Israeli Labor Party], and it is due to her that I came here. Still, my heart is open to everyone, and I will be happy to meet members of that committee, just as I am happy to meet any other author or intellectual who wants to meet me."

Yevtushenko claimed that the Soviet writers association empowered him to normalize and advance relations between Israeli authors and their Soviet colleagues regardless of any advance in official relations between Israel and the USSR. [passage omitted]

Peres Knows 'Nothing' of Secret Agreement

TA0412052788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Excerpts] THE WASHINGTON POST says that a secret Israeli-U.S. agreement at one time empowered 'Amiram Nir, the prime minister's antiterror adviser, to conduct antiterror operations in cooperation with the Americans. He carried out those operations together with Oliver North. The agreements were signed at the time by President Reagan and Prime Minister Shim'on Peres.

Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer points out that 'Amiram Nir disclosed the existence of the agreement in a lengthy interview with a WASHINGTON POST correspondent just before his death. The material was originally intended for use without attribution, but upon Nir's death the paper's editorial board decided to disclose the name of the source. [passage omitted]

The spokesman of the Israeli Embassy in Washington said he would not comment on the agreement. Israel and the United States have many agreements, the spokesman added, and we never said Nir operated on his own initiative. Everything he did enjoyed the approval of the Israeli Government, the spokesman added.

Reacting to the report, Minister Shim'on Peres said this morning: I know absolutely nothing of an agreement in such a spirit with President Reagan.

12 Senior Officials Receive Ambassadorial Rank

TA0412120788 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Dec 88 p 2

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] Two weeks ago Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres granted the rank of ambassador to eight senior Foreign Ministry officials and the personal title of ambassador to an additional four.

As may be recalled, former Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was criticized on the eve of the premiership rotation for granting ambassadorial rank to a number of senior officials only a short time before Shim'on Peres was to have taken his place in the Foreign Ministry. It has been learned that some of the current nominations were made on the basis of recommendations by the Foreign Ministry's administration department, with Peres adding his own nominees.

The rank of ambassador is held by only 15 senior diplomats. It is granted to long-standing ambassadors and is considered a prestigious title bequeathed for life.

The diplomats who received the rank of ambassador according to Peres' decision are: Ze'ev Sufot, ambassador to The Netherlands; 'Amos Ganor, ambassador to Denmark; and Moshe Raviv, assistant director general of the Foreign Ministry's Information Division. The other recipients of the title are exiting ambassadors Yitzhaq Ben-Ari, Yitzhaq Navon, and David Rivlin, who are due to retire in the coming weeks.

Senior diplomats Rahamim Timor and Shamay Cahana who will retire next year also received the rank of ambassador. The personal title of ambassador was granted to Yo'av Biran, ambassador to the United Kingdom; Avi Primor, ambassador to Belgium; and assistant directors Eytan Bentzur and Yehezqel Barne'a.

It has been learned from the Foreign Ministry that Peres made sure he delayed the decision on granting the ranks until after the elections, and his considerations were matter-of-fact and took into account the candidate's years of seniority and experience.

Settler Sentenced to Prison for Killing Arab

TA0412105088 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Yisra'el Ze'ev, a resident of Shilo in Samaria, was sentenced this morning to 3 years in prison with an additional 2-year suspended sentence. Last week the court convicted him of killing an Arab shepherd and of wounding another. Justice Tzvi Kohen ordered him to pay 30,000 Israeli shekels in damages to the family of the deceased.

Our legal affairs correspondent Mikha'el Birenhack reports that assuming his sentence is reduced by one third due to good behavior, and taking into account the time he has already served in prison, he would be released in 17 months.

Weekend Incidents in Territories; Strike Called

TA0412115788 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 4 Dec 88 p 2

[Report by 'Eran Taus and ITIM]

[Excerpts] Violent clashes took place over the weekend between the IDF and local residents, resulting in the death of Bayt Furik resident Hamid al-Hajj Muhammad, 15, and the injury of 26 West Bank and Gaza Strip residents.

Military sources said that an IDF unit engaged in initiated activities was stoned in the village of Bay Furik near Nabulus. The soldiers opened fire, killing a local youth and wounding another. Arab sources in the village have said that Muhammad was shot dead after sustaining a shoulder injury. He was transferred to Al-Ittihad Hospital in Nabulus.

According to the Arab sources, the incident occurred in the course of an IDF operation in the village, during which the troops were reinforced by an additional number of soldiers and vehicles dropped by a helicopter. The flown-in reinforcements, they said, opened fire.

Military sources reported yesterday that nine residents were wounded during stone throwing incidents in the Nabulus casbah. Nabulus and Ramallah hospitals, where the wounded are hospitalized, have reported that three of them are in a serious condition. Arab sources have added that the event occurred when the Army used live fire to disperse a mass demonstration in Old Nabulus. One of the casualties of this incident is a resident of the village of 'Awarta.

Military sources have also reported the injury of a youth from the Tulkarm refugee camp. It has been learned from the Nabulus hospital that the report refers to a 16-year-old who was shot in the leg.

Sources in the village of Qaffin near Janin said yesterday that the IDF had removed the local mosque's loudspeakers, moved all the residents' cars to one spot, and imposed a blockade on the place. These actions followed last Thursday's incident in which 17-year-old Sami Harayshah was killed.

In initiated activities in dozens of West Bank locations the IDF removed PLO flags, erased slogans, and made arrests. A large part of the recent fatalities in the West Bank are the result of violent clashes caused by these activities.

The Al-Am'ari refugee camp near Ramallah, Kafr Malik, and the city of Qalqilyah have been under curfew for the last 15 days.

In the Gaza Strip, 15 residents—most of them youths—were brought to the local hospitals over the weekend after they were wounded in violent clashes with the Army. One youth was transferred in a serious condition to the Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1630 GMT on 3 December adds: "Four students at the UNRWA school in Khan Yunus were wounded this morning by plastic bullets after they hurled stones from the schoolyard at an IDF patrol."]

The Friday prayers in mosques were conducted in "relative quiet." Near 1600, however, a group of youths clashed with soldiers who fired plastic bullets, wounding a 17-year-old in his chest. He was transferred to Gaza's Ahali Hospital in a grave condition. Two 18-year-old youths from the Al-Nusayrat refugee camp were shot in the legs and transferred to a hospital in Gaza. Three Dayr al-Balah youths were brought to Gaza's Ahali Hospital. Two had gunshot wounds in the legs, while the third, who was badly bruised all over his body, claimed he had been beaten by IDF soldiers. [passage omitted]

Four Rafah residents were slightly wounded when the IDF dispersed residents gathered in the city market and in the Rafah refugee camp. They were brought to Al-Nasir Hospital in Khan Yunus.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0500 GMT on 5 December adds: "A hand grenade was thrown at an Egged bus traveling between Hebron and Jerusalem last night. The Army said there were no injuries and the bus was not damaged.

In the territories eight residents were wounded, apparently from Army fire. The incidents took place in Gaza and Nabulus.

Meanwhile the leadership of the uprising in the Gaza Strip has called on residents there to strike for 3 days, starting today."]

Navy Intercepts Lebanese Boat, Detains Crew

TA0412124988 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Early Saturday morning an Israeli Navy patrol intercepted the Lebanese ship "Hasan," with three Lebanese crew members on board, off the south Lebanese coast. "Hasan" had been involved in the transfer of terrorists from Cyprus to southern Lebanon. There were three crew members on board the ship, and they were detained for interrogation.

King Husayn Lectures at Cambridge University

JN0312133788 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn has reiterated the need for an interntional Mideast peace conference to find a solution to the Palestinian question, noting that the Arab-Israeli conflict is the only dispute in the world that remains unresolved.

He also stressed the need for Palestinian participation in any peace negotiations and said the international community now realizes that cooperation and reconciliation are the best means to achieve peace. The PLO, his majesty added, has demonstrated readiness to shoulder its responsibilities and it is up to the international community to see that Israel reciprocates.

The statements were made in a lecture given by His Majesty King Husayn at Cambridge University last night at the invitation of the Cambridge University Union League. The lecture was attended by the president and faculty along with students and reports. [passage omitted]

TIMES Reports Lecture

JN0412091188 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Dec 88 pp 1, 4

[By JORDAN TIMES staff writer]

[Excerpts] London—The Palestinian people are shouldering their responsibility towards bringing about a just and comprehensive negotiated settlement of the Middle East conflict and it is the duty of the international community to exert efforts towards achieving peace in the region, His Majesty King Husayn said Saturday.

In a speech accepting a honorary membership of the Cambridge Union Society, the King briefly reviewed the situation in the Arab-Israeli conflict and reiterated his call for an international peace conference on the Middle East under U.N. auspices and attended by the five permanent members of the security Council and all parties involved in the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). [passage omitted]

Following are major excerpts from the King's address:

"We have been heartened by the recent steady improvement in international relations. There is a growing realisation that the way ahead lies in cooperation and compromise rather than in confrontation and polarisation. The fruits of this forward thinking are already apparent in various regional trouble spots such as Afghanistan, Angola, Central America, and the Iran-Iraq war. We are greatly encouraged that solutions to these problems have either been reached or are in the process of being finally negotiated.

"We are hopeful that the international community will continue to press ahead along the constructive path of defusing regional conflicts. It will be an important contribution to making the world a safer and a better one.

"The remaining major regional conflict that urgently needs the attention of the international community lies in the region we live in.

"The international community has been clear on the requirements for the achievement of a just and durable solution to the conflict. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 were unanimously agreed as constituting the basis for such a solution. Essentially, they require Israel to withdraw from all the Arab territories it occupied in June 1967 in return for peace. They delineate rights and obligations with regard to both the Arabs and Israelis so that the terms for peace are mutual and balanced. Since both resolutions were unanimously adopted by the Security Council of the United Nations, we are convinced that the only way to proceed is through the convening of an international pece conference on the Middle East.

"The aim will be to agree on ways and means to implement, in full and in good faith, all the provisions of the resolutions, and to resolve the Palestinian problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict in all its aspects. The presence of the permanent members of the Security Council is vital for the attainment of a comprehensive peace, as well as to provide the necessary security guarantees that will be needed for proper implementation of the negotiated settlement. They are the authors of the resolutions. They have an interest and a moral responsibility to help all the parties to the conflict to attain an equitable settlement, thus diffusing one of the most volatile threats to global peace.

"Since the Palestinian problem lies at the core of this conflict, the Palestinians must be directly involved in resolving the problem. Palestinian legitimate rights must be addressed and accommodated. The Palestinian people should be given the opportunity to exercise their right to self-determination on Palestinian soil currently under Israeli occupation.

"We, in Jordan, have worked hard and long for peace. I was personally involved in the deliberations preceding the adoption of Security Council Resolution 242. I was assured by the American Administration at that time that it would be implemented within six months. We have persevered in our efforts to have the resolution implemented ever since.

"Since Israel was clearly bent on ignoring the Palestinian dimension of the conflict, we decided, last July, to disengage ourselves from the legal and administrative association we had with the occupied West Bank for the last 38 years. Our decision, which was consistent with expressed Arab and Palestinian wishes, was primarily aimed at bringing about the universal recognition of the

fact that the Palestinian problem is the root cause of the Arab Israeli conflict. Israel must be persuaded to recognise this fact and reappraise its policies which have only brought it and the entire region tragic wars and continued strife. The peace and security it professed to seek have eluded it because Israel denied the peoples of the region the very same rights it sought for itself. We believe that the international community is called upon to prevail on that country to recognise that its approach to the problem is neither feasible nor tenable. If its military strength has rendered disdainful of the basic truism that others have legitimate concerns and rightful aspirations which are to be recognised and accommodated, the world surely has the responsibility of impressing on Israel that it will not tolerate a situation that has a potentially destructive effect on regional and indeed, international stability.

"It is a situation rendered more untenable with each passing day. Not only has Israel frustrated all efforts aimed at attaining a just and durable peace. It has vastly escalated the arms race in the region. Israel has developed and stock-piled a nuclear arsenal which threatens the entire area, and has recently introduced space satellite technology as a further element of confrontation. It is not surprising, then, that the Arab countries have been actively seeking means to redress the imbalance.

"The Arab World is on record as ready and willing to make its contribution for the cause of peace. The PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, is shouldering its responsibilities to arrive at a true and just peace. The Palestinians have demonstrated their willingness to join in a historic reconciliation between Arabs and Israelis.

"...The Palestinian people have shouldered their responsibilities, supported by the efforts of Jordan and the Arab states. We believe that it is Israel's turn to reciprocate this historic step and yearning for peace.

"We believe that the international community and people of goodwill everywhere are called upon to impress on Israel the need to heed the call of reason and peace. We hope that you will also support and assist our efforts in this worthy endeavour, for our efforts have always been, and will always be, dedicated to a better future for the coming generations."

The King is currently on a working visit to Britain. During his stay there, he is expected to hold talks with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and other senior British officials on the latest developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict and prospects for peace in the Middle East.

TIMES Editorial on Lecture

JN0512111288 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Dec 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Whose Turn Now?"]

[Text] In his speech accepting a honorary membership of the Cambridge Union Society at the University of Cambridge Saturday, His Majesty King Husayn poignantly outlined not only how Israel has been frustrating all efforts aimed at attaining a just and durable peace in the Middle East, but also how its aggressive policies vastly escalated the arms race in the region by stock-piling a nuclear arsenal and by introducing space satellite technology to this part of world.

This alarming situation, his majesty cautioned, has led Arab countries to seek military balance with Israel. As the U.S. is apparently committed to keep Israel's military prowess superior to the collective Arab defence forces, the Arab World is bound to have a head-on collision with Washington over this commitment.

All such confrontations could of course be avoided if, as His Majesty King Husayn has counselled, the improvement in international relations in general and East-West in particular could be brought to bear on the region of the Middle East as well. The Arab side, including the Palestinians, have spoken their word and have accepted U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. It is high time that Israel is called upon to pronounce unequivocally its position on these resolutions, by word as well as deed.

It is utterly unfair to ask only the Arabs about what they are prepared to say and do for peace. It is high time that the international community addresses the same inquiry to the Israelis as well. Even more relevant is the question of what the United Nations is prepared to do to implement the very resolutions that have become the accepted legitimate basis for the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

It is no longer sufficient for the United Nations, including the Security Council, to express the applicability of these resolutions. What is urgently needed is to have the Security Council pronounce itself on how it views the machinery needed to enforce these resolutions, as it has done in the past with other resolutions. The whole international community, save Washington and Tel Aviv, have opted for the international peace conference on the Middle East as the most effective machinery to implement the twenty years old resolutions.

His Majesty King Husayn has reiterated Arab support for this international peace conference under U.N. auspices. The Arab and international choice of this avenue for effecting peace in the Middle East is deep-rooted and well vindicated. If the remaining stumbling blocks in the path of the international conference could be overcome or better still persuaded to yield to common sense and international unanimity, the achievement of peace between Arabs and Israel would become imminent.

Al-Rifa'i Returns From Damascus Visit

JN0412185588 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i returned to Amman this evening after a short working visit to Syria during which he met with His Excellency Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic. Al-Rifa'i delivered a

message from His Majesty King Husayn to His Excellency President al-Asad. The talks dealt with the situation in the region and on the Arab scene, as well as bilateral issues. The meeting was attended by Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. The two prime ministers attended a luncheon given by President al-Asad.

Al-Rifa'i was received and seen off in Damascus by Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, a number of ministers, and the Jordanian ambassador in Damascus. Upon his arrival in Amman this evening, Al-Rifa'i was received by the minister of state for parliamentary affairs, the minister of transportation and communications, the minister of information, and the minister of state for cabinet affairs.

U.K. Minister for Defense Procurement Arrives

JN0412205288 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 4 Dec

[Text] The British Minister of State for Defense Procurement Lord Trefgarne arrived in Amman this evening for an official visit to Jordan during which he will meet government officials and tour military and historical sites. Lord Trefgarne wes greeted by the Armed Forces Commander in Chief Field Marshal al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, the Chief of the General Staff General Fathi Abu Talib, senior Army officers, the British ambassador, and the military attache in Amman.

Meets With Al-Rifa'i

JN0512125088 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Amman—Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received in his office today Lord Trefgarne, British minister of state for defense procurement currently visiting Jordan. They looked into how to boost bilateral cooperation.

The British ambassador in Amman and the minister's delegation were present.

PNC Speaker on 'Continuous' Contacts, Passports

JN0312103588 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Dec 88 p 20

[By Sa'd al-Sillawi]

[Text] Amman—PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih has announced that the PNC will be called to convene once again if the United States insists on its intransigent position which refuses to recognize the Palestinian state and the PNC resolutions recently adopted at the extraordinary session in Algiers. The next session will review the reactions that have appeared so that the PNC members adopt an appropriate decision serving the interests of the Palestinian Arab people and their fateful cause.

In an exclusive interview with SAWT AL-SHA'B, the PNC speaker disclosed that the PLO has received information indicating that there is an Israeli plan underway to assassinate a number of Palestinian leaders headed by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Asked about convening an Arab summit, Shaykh al-Sa'ih said that this subject was discussed during recent Jordanian-Palestinian meetings and that His Majesty King Husayn is working seriously to convene the summit by consulting with Arab leaders in this respect.

The PNC speaker asserted that the contacts between Jordan and the PLO are continuous and that they have not stopped. He said that Yasir 'Arafat's recent visit to Jordan and the good reception he received from His Majesty King Husayn, Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, and all Jordanian officials emphasized that Jordanian-Palestinian relations are histoic and that there are no loopholes in them. In fact, the process of cohesion should continue, and contacts and meetings between Jordanian and Palestinian leaderships should be intensified.

He said the Jordanian move led by His Majesty King Husayn through his numerous visits to Arab countries following the PNC resolutions is clear evidence that Jordan will not give up its role in the Palestinian question.

Asked about the issuance of Palestinian passports, Shaykh al-Sa'ih said that the Palestinian leadership is seriously studying this subject, but that this is not the right time for that, because passports would come after the formation of the Palestinian state. He added that the idea exists but that it is not the right time to issue passports, stressing that the agreement with Jordan is to maintain things as they are at the moment.

Besharati Arrives in Beirut After Meeting Al-Asad

NC0512061588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammed Besharati arrived in Beirut yesterday evening after he had met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus and discussed with him the situation in Lebanon, especially the Amal-Hizballah conflict.

Comments on Damascus Visit

NC0512072288 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Brother Mohammed 'Ali Besharati arrived in Beirut yesterday evening. He will hold contacts with Shi'ite officials on possibilities for reconciling the Amal Movement and Hizballah and for ending the state of tension.

Brother Besharati asserted that the talks he held yesterday with Syrian officials in Damascus were marked by a conformity of views. Following his meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Besharati said this conformity covered all issues reviewed.

Meets With Al-Husayni, Al-Huss

NC0512105588 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni this morning received 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, Iranian deputy foreign minister, who was accompanied by Hoseyn Niknam, Iranian charge d'affaires in Beirut; Mohammad Hasan Akhtari, Iranian ambassador to Syria; and Mahmud Hashemi, head of the 8th department in the Iranian Foreign Ministry. They discussed the local conditions and developments as well as the efforts being exerted to resolve the conflict between the Amal Movement and Hizballah.

After the meeting, Besharati declined to make any statement but was satisfied to say that he will hold a news conference at 1500 today. The Iranian official and his accompanying delegation had earlier met with Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss for the same purpose.

Comments After Meeting Al-Huss

NC0512121488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad 'Ali Besharati visited a number of nationalist leaders today. After his meeting with Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, Besharati said: We visited Prime Minister al-Huss to find out about the current developments in Lebanon and to hold consultations on the efforts being exerted to resolve the crisis. We expressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness to help resolve the problems from which Lebanon is suffering.

Responding to a question, Besharati said: The problems Lebanon has been experiencing are transient. Lebanon has continued to stand firmly on its two own feet. Besharati added: With regard to the recent measures relating to the crossings, which have affected the Lebanese people's supply situation, we informed Prime Minister al-Huss that the Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to provide the Lebanese people with the essential commodities they need.

Asked what has been done about the existing problems between the Amal Movement and Hizballah, Besharati stated: We are exerting the necessary efforts to end these problems. We have met with the Syrian leaders and the brothers in the Amal Movement and Hizballah.

Hizballah 'Figures' in Iranian Embassy in Beirut

NC0312173588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Diplomatic sources have disclosed that the Iranian Embassy in West Beirut is hosting a number of Hizballah responsible figures. The Syrian authorities had requested that they be handed over on charges of assassinating the three Amal leaders in the Al-Awza'i area.

Fadlallah: U.S. 'Obstructing' Hostage Release

NC0212202188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah [Hizballah spiritual guide] has accused Washington of obstructing the release of the foreign hostages held in Lebanon. In a statement to AL-SHIRA' magazine, Fadlallah said that the United States is trying hard to restore its ties with Iran, but without making any concessions.

Fadlallah Cites U.S. 'Pressure' on Syria

NC0300105700 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Hizballah spiritual guide Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said that the United States has singular control over the Lebanese cards. He added that it is using this control to pressure Syria into making concessions regarding the Arab cause and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In an interview with AFP, Fadlallah said that Washington's uncertainty over what role it wants Lebanon to play in the Middle East is the real reason behind the failure to hold the presidential elections. Names [of presidential candidates] and titles of political reform are low on the agenda of regional and international powers, Fadlallah added.

The Hizballah spiritual guide said that a unified Lebanon is an international necssity, adding that the elections will take place and that adequate pressure will be applied toward this end both in the political and security spheres.

Fadlallah ruled out a renewal of fighting between Amal and Hizballah because, as he put it, the consequences of the clashes were beginning to infringe upon the red lines and imperil the Syrian security plan, as well as the course of the political battles with eastern Beirut.

Switzerland Advises Nationals To Leave

NC0312062688 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] The Swiss Government has advised all of its nationals to leave Lebanon lest they be subjected to abduction. The Swiss Foreign Ministry has disclosed that the abduction of Peter Winkler, an official of the International Red Cross, is connected with the detention in Geneva of Husayn 'Ali Muhammad Hariri, a Lebanese plane hijacker.

Syrians Dismantling Posts North of Sidon

NC0412171788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] A communication between 'Isam al-Lawh, a Palestinian official in Lebanon, and another official called Abu Hazim was monitored this afternoon. Al-Lawh informed Abu Hazim that the Syrians began dismantling their posts on the coastal road north of Sidon this afternoon.

Al-Lawh maintained that this either means a possible Israeli attack on Sidon or preparation for the deployment of Lebanese Army troops who come under the command of Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib.

Two Attacks on Syrians in West Beirut Claimed

NC0512063188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Unit 705 in the Shaykh Subhi Salih Forces has claimed responsibility for two attacks on the Syrian occupation forces in West Beirut. The first attack, on a white Mercedes 230 car belonging to the Syrian intelligence organs, was carried out using hand grenades at 0945 [date not further identified] near the German Embassy in the Al-Hamra' area. The second attack also took place in the Al-Hamra' area near Al-Nijmah Bookshop. The target was a Syrian intelligence patrol.

A communique issued by this unit said that the two attacks scored direct hits and that Muhammad Hassun, a member of the Shaykh Subhi Salih Forces, was taken prisoner by the Syrian occupation forces. The communique warned against endangering his life, particularly as he was wounded.

Al-Husayni Notes 'Identical' Views With Syrians

NC0312155188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Following his return from Damascus and his meetings with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni made a statement in which he said:

It was an opportunity to discuss the situation in Lebanon, the developments in the Lebanese crisis on the local, regional, and international levels, and ways to get Lebanon out of its ordeal. Foremost of these ways is to achieve national reconciliation. This is the principal means of solving the various problems making up the Lebanese crisis, and will enable the Lebanese to regain their sovereignty, liberate their territory from Israeli occupation, and consolidate Lebanon's independence.

As always, we felt the determination of officials in sister Syria to support Lebanon in the face of dangers threatening its unity and the unity of its territory, people, and institutions. This determination comes from Syria's pan-Arab responsibility, which calls for action by all means to frustrate the Zionist schemes against Lebanon and the Arab nation.

The views were completely identical on the need to choose a new president of the Republic with a clear view of national reconciliation. This would speed up the election of a new president and then make it possible after the elections to quickly move toward national reconciliation and salvation by reconstituting the state, making it capable of imposing its authority over the entire Lebanese territory.

Speaker al-Husayni added: I am sure that if we follow this course, the struggle over the name of the candidate for the presidency will become less acute. It would also make it possible for the next president to proceed from a solid base, together with the other institutions, and to put an end to the Lebanese people's long ordeal, which is now beyond the people's tolerance. Furthermore, this course is consistent with the appropriate international atmosphere for a solution under conditions which have not existed before.

As much as we condemn the actions of those who wager on the continuation of the crisis and who are going too far in trying to divide the country and people, we call on the Lebanese to adhere to their faith in their one, united country; to reject anything that is opposed to their coexistence; and to work for the salvation of their country by following the right course toward a solution to the crisis, detached from personal whims and interests. Homelands are much more precious than these whims and interests and the persons who have them.

Birri: U.S. Has List of Presidential Candidates

NC0212154988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Minister Nabih Birri returned to Beirut from Damascus this morning. [passage omitted]

Meeting with journalists this afternoon, Minister Birri stated that the purpose of his visit to Damascus was to conduct in-depth talks with the Syrian leaders on the situation in Lebanon, and the need to chart a new constitution for the establishment of a new republic.

Minister Birri declared that 5 days ago the Americans had received a list containing the names of five candidates. He added that not a single Muslim candidate was on the list. He reiterated his view that a new charter or constitution should be introduced prior to any election. He stated that the Arab stand is that reforms should be introduced either before or simultaneously with the election.

Further on Birri Remarks

NC0212183788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has returned from Damascus and, as usual, he had more negative things to say. He stated that his talks with Syrian officials had centered on the need to change the Lebanese system. He expressed the view that all the talk about nominations and elections before a new charter has been drawn up can be dismissed as irrelevant and laughable. He reiterated his rejection of any election before a new constitution is drawn up. He stated that, 5 days ago, the Americans received a list of five candidates, and he said he was surprised that not one Muslim was amongst them.

Commenting on the likelihood of reconciliation between Amal and Hizballh, Birri said the reconciliation that is needed is between the Lebanese Shi'ites and the Islamic Republic of Iran. In this way he tried to avoid discussing Hizballah, which drove him out of the southern suburb. He noted that the visit to Tehran by Shaykh Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, is a fundamental step toward establishing rules and bases for these relations.

Birri insisted that any reconciliation with Hizballah must be preceded by the handover to Syria of the assassins of the three Amal leaders. As usual, he declared that Syria is the only party responsible for security. Birri remarked that both West Beirut and the southern suburb should form part of a unified security plan; in other words, the Syrian occupation of West Beirut should be perpetuated and extended to the suburb.

Junblatt on Merger With Syria, New President

NC0212205888 (Clandestine) Voice of Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2015 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] In a statement to AFP, PSP leader Walid Junblatt has declared that the merger of a part of Lebanon with Syria is better than a return to a unified Lebanon dominated by the West and Israel's allies.

Junblatt expressed the belief that the current efforts to elect a new president of the Republic are a farce, saying: We do not need a new president, we need a new regime. he added: A return to a unified Lebanon under the 1943 formula is our least concern. I prefer the merger of the areas under our control with Syria to a return to this formula.

Junblatt said that Patriarch Sfayr and General 'Awn are nothing but official spokesmen of Ja'ja'. He also criticized Prime Minister al-Huss and the traditionalists in his government, accusing Al-Huss of being incapable of making decisions.

Junblatt Insists on Reforms Before Elections

NC0312103988 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] PSP leader Walid Junblatt has emphasized that there will be no president of the Republic unless the reform plan is implemented in Lebanon.

In a lengthy interview published by the AL-ANBA' newspaper today, Junblatt says: Some people in the Muslim ranks believe that there can be some compromise with the isolationist plan. He adds: The Christians have become captives, deprived of the right to speak. Patriarch Sfayr must not be accorded an independent status because he is an instrument for the implementation of the extremist Christian plan.

In his interview, Junblatt stresses that Syria will spare no effort to achieve the minimum limit of reconciliation within the framework of reforms in Lebanon. He says: The Islamic grouping and Dr Salim al-Huss oppose the expansion of the government. He adds: We must give him an opportunity to consolidate his activities.

Referring to the elections, Junblatt says: These will not have as much effect as the reform program. He adds: We support the Soviets who want an international conference. However, there are some conditions for convening this conference. Nobody opposes the principle of the Palestinian state as a stage for restoring the Palestinians rights on all the land of Palestine.

Junblatt reiterates his support for the Kurds saying: We are for granting the Kurds their rights. Their history is honorable. The name of Saladin is enough for us.

'Awn Appoints Security Official; Crossing Open
NC0312122388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] In his capacity as acting interior minister, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn issued decision No. 6 dated 3 December 1988, which charges Brigadier General Samir Mitri of the Internal Security Forces with the duties of Internal Security director general when the director general himself is absent for any reason. This decision takes effect today.

In another development, to facilitate the citizens' business, the Army Command today permitted citizens to pass through the Museum-Al-Barbir crossing on foot. It also allowed cars carrying passengers holding travel tickets to pass through.

Al-Huss Warns of Crossing Closure 'Consequences'
NC0312104988 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has warned that the continued closure of the crossing points will have bad consequences. Al-Huss said: The least that can be said is that this is a subversive and irresponsible action. Al-Huss added that there are some who do not hesitate to risk the fate of a homeland to realize a cheap ambition.

Dr al-Huss went on: We have adhered to the line of preserving the unity of Lebanon. We will not deviate from this course, regardless of the sacrifices. He said: The temperament of those in control will not prevent us from adopting the measures necessary to defend the citizens' livelihood and dignity from the results of the sterility of others and their stupid policy.

Army, Internal Security Forces Clash in E. Beirut
NC0412092588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Tension built up in some parts of the eastern area last night following an armed clash between elements of the Army and internal security forces during which there was an exchange of gunfire.

According to security sources, an Army military police force surrounded internal security forces' patrols, closed some roads, and demanded that some gendarmerie be handed over, claiming that they had fired at Army elements. After negotiations, during which forces on both sides were alerted, a decision was issued by the government's negotiator upon the order of the military government to hand over one of the gendarmerie to the military police.

Israeli Planes Over Beirut, South, Mountain
NC0312113488 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Zionist warplanes flew over Beirut, the mountain, and the South around 1210 today.

Southern Villages Shelled; Planes Over Beirut
NC0412091088 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Excerpts] The townships of Al-Nabatiyah, Kafr Rumman, and Habbush came under violent artillery fire from Israeli forces at 0930 this morning. According to preliminary reports, many citizens were killed and wounded. [passage omitted]

In another development, Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier over Beirut at approximately 1040 this morning.

Israeli Shelling Kills One, Wounds Several
NC0412102488 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] The City of Al-Nabatiyah and the townships of Habbush and Kafr Rumman came under artillery fire from the positions of the occupation forces and their agents in Al-Tuhrah and Al-Suwayda'. Qasim Khalil from Habbush died from his wounds as he was moved to the hospital. His mother and niece were wounded. Others wounded include Muhammad Ahmad Qansuh and 'Abbas 'Ali Ahmad. The shelling resulted in heavy damage to property.

Israeli warplanes intensifed their flights over the South, Beirut and the mountain area and broke the sound barrier several times before returning to the occupied territory this morning.

Israelis Seize Boat Carrying 'Terrorists'
NC0412134088 Paris AFP in English 1320 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, Dec 4 (AFP)—The Israeli Navy on Sunday boarded a yacht just 500 meters (yards) from the southern Lebanese port city of Tyre and seized three Lebanese teenagers, port sources said.

The vessel, with two brothers and their cousin aboard, was taken in tow by the gunboats and taken toward Israel, the sources said. The boat belongs to the brothers' father Salim Khalifah.

Other incidents were also reported with the Israeli Navy.

Israeli Navy units fired on about 20 fishermen who were hauling in their nets aboard seven boats near Tyre, Lebanese police said, while Amal sources said three Israeli gunboats approached the Tyre coast firing flares and exchanging automatic gunfire with Shi'ite Amal militiamen for two hours.

Amal deployed troops and armored vehicles in anticipation of an Israeli landing, the sources said.

In Jerusalem, a military spokesman named the yacht as the Hassan and said it had recently carried "terrorists" from Cyprus to southern Lebanon.

The three-man Lebanese crew had been arrested and was being questioned, he added.

Israelis Make Mock Raids; Syrians 'Storming'

NC0512094388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes have been flying over areas east of Sidon since 0930 today. They are staging mock raids and are being confronted by antiaircraft fire.

In another development, the Syrian Arab forces will continue their storming and search operations in some parts of West Beirut today to try to disarm people. The Syrian forces are expected to shift their search operations to Beirut's southern suburb.

The storming operations carried out by these forces yesterday included the areas of Barbur, Zuqaq al-Balat, Al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq, Al-Nuwayrah, and Al-Janah.

Meanwhile, the Museum-Al-Barbir crossing remains closed for the 4th successive day today. It is closed to all vehicles but open to pedestrians. As for the Franciscan crossing, it is open to pedestrians and military and diplomatic cars.

Clashes in South; Israeli Overflights

NC0512083188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Intermittent clashes have been raging along the Lib-a-Kafr Falus-'Ayn al-Mir axis since this morning. Israeli reconnaissance sorties have been reported over certain southern areas. The Israeli warplanes drew antiaircraft fire while flying over southern Sidon.

Reportage on Visit by Jordan's Al-Rifa'i

Received by Al-Asad

JN0412124588 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i at 1300 today. Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi attended the meeting.

Zayd al-Rifa'i arrived in Damascus at noon today. Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi was at the head of those who welcomed him on his arrival at the airport. Also present were other ministers to welcome him. Al-Rifa'i and Al-Zu'bi left in an official motorcade for the Al-Rawdah Palace.

Sent To Relax Ties With Egypt

JN0412125888 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i arrived suddenly in Damascus at noon today, where he was received by his Syrian counterpart, Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and many goverment officials.

This visit coincides with information published by the Saudi newspaper AL-MADINAH that the mediation carried out by Jordan's King Husayn to bring Syria and Egypt closer to each other has made important progress.

Perhaps the Jordanian monarch's good efforts, supported by Saudi Arabia, will lead to an agreement to hold a tripartite summit of Syria's, Jordan's, and Egypt's leaders on the sidelines of the next Arab summit, in which King Husayn is attempting to convince Syria to accept Egypt's participation.

Now we provide you with more details on Mr al-Rifa'i's visit to Damascus from our correspondent, Randa Habib, in Amman.

[Begin recording] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i is holding discussions with Syrian officials today. The talks are expected to concentrate on Jordanian efforts to relax the atmosphere between Syria and Egypt according to diplomatic Arab sources in Amman.

According to an official Jordanian source, the talks will also deal with bilateral relations and the latest developments in the Middle East conflict after the United Nations resolution to move the General Assembly deliberations over the question of Palestine from New York to Geneva.

An Arab diplomatic source in Amman said Al-Rifa'i will inform Syrian officials of the results of Jordanian-Egyptian talks in Cairo last Wednesday. 'Usamah al-Baz, head of the Egyptian President's Office for Political Affairs, affirmed recently the Jordanian monarch's course toward relaxing the atmosphere between Damascus and Cairo.

He said that despite the absence of specific plans or arrangements for meetings between the two leaderships—Egyptian and Syrian—the king is relaxing relations and clearing them of blemishes. [end recording]

Departs Damascus 4 Dec

JN0412164788 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] At 1300 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i. Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi attended the meeting.

Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i left Damascus at 1730 today. Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi led those who saw him off at the airport.

Al-Rifa'i was also seen off by a number of ministers and the Jordanian ambassador in Damascus.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Visits Damascus

Received by Al-Shar'

JN0312142688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, Iranian deputy foreign minister. Mohammad Hasan Akhtari, Iranian ambassador in Damascus attended. The meeting dealt with bilateral relations and current conditions in the region.

Briefs Al-Shar' on 'New Policy'

LD0312200288 Tehran IRNA in English 1848 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Damascus, Dec. 3, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati today briefed the Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' on the Islamic Republic's new policy in improving ties with the world states, particularly those in the Persian Gulf.

The two sides also welcomed the idea of forming an independent Palestinian state in any part of the occupied lands but condemned compromising moves towards recognition of the Zionist regime.

They agreed that the only way to restore the rights of the Palestinian nation was continuation of struggle against the regime occupying Qods [Jerusalem].

They also stressed the need to promote friendly ties between Iran and Syria.

Besharati arrived here Friday night.

Talks With Al-Asad

LD0412112588 Tehran IRNA in English 1119 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Damascus, Dec. 4, IRNA—Iranian First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati held talks Sunday with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on Tehran-Damascus ties, Middle East issues and other matters of mutual interest.

On Saturday, Besharati discussed with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' regional and international issues.

The first deputy foreign minister arrived here yesterday.

Damascus Radio Notes Talks

JN0412130388 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, Iranian deputy foreign minister, at 1030 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Iranian ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

The talks dealt with the state of affairs in the region and issues of common concern.

IRNA Details Talks

LD0412150288 Tehran IRNA in English 1447 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Damascus, Dec. 4, IRNA—A message from President 'Ali Khamene'i was presented to Syrian head of state Hafiz al-Asad by Iran's first deputy foreign minister here today.

"The Islamic Revolution has set a good example for pious Muslims around the globe and Syria understanding its revolutionary nature has always voiced, and will continue to voice support," said President al-Asad who stressed the need to strengthen mutual ties.

Besharati, thanking Syria's support, briefed Al-Asad on the latest developments in the Iran-Iraq peace talks and Tehran's ties with neighbouring states.

Among other topics discussed were the current developments in Lebanon and the two sides underscored the need for unity of all Islamic and progressive groups in that country in the face of Zionist and separatist threats.

The Iranian official who arrived Saturday also met with the Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Afghanistan

Najibullah on Vorontsov Talks With Opposition

LD0312194388 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Interview with President Najibullah on 3 December by unidentified BIA correspondent in Kabul on talks to be held in Saudi Arabia between Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister and Soviet ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary in Afghanistan, and representatives of the opposition seven-party alliance—Najibullah's answers to questions read by announcer]

[Text] [Question] The mass media of a number of countries, as stated by the Afghan Foreign Ministry, have recently published news of a meeting to be held in Saudi Arabia between Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister and Soviet ambassador extraordinary in the Republic of Afghanistan, and representatives of the seven-party alliance. What is your view on this meeting?

[Answer] According to the policy of national reconciliation, believing in the prinicple of a political solution to the situation in Afghanistan, to end the war and bloodshed, and to prevent the continuation of the tragic 10-year war in the country, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan has always stated its readiness and consent to resolve these issues by means of dialogue and talks within their various forms, regardless of who proposes them.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan has repeatedly expressed its readiness for dialogue with the opposition wherever it may be so that the ground may be paved for reconciliation and understanding through dialogue and talks. This is the only was to solve problems.

The basis of all the measures which have been taken by the Republic of Afghanistan is an inclination for peace and to end the war. The second purpose of these measures is to reflect the new character of political pluralism which forms the policy of national reconciliation in conformity with the country's constitution. Our purpose is coalition. This is not merely a tactical policy. It is a strategy which requires consultation and dialogue among all compatriots who are not disinterested in the country's destiny and who think responsibly.

Who a person is and where he comes from is not important; however, what he can contribute to the country is important. Naturally, the issue here is that discussion and debate is necessary with all those who really want to progress decisively and jointly with us in an equal manner toward understanding and national accords. However, the other approach, which is striving to create the lauguage of ultimatums, can produce no benefit, only the intensification of tension.

The upcoming meeting between Yuliy Vorontsov and Burhanuddin Rabbani, Sibhatullah Mujadeddi, and representatives of Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, which takes place with the agreement of the Republic of Afghanistan, in reality is the result of our previous contacts with Burhanuddin Rabbani and Gulbuddin Hikmatyar and representatives of the alliance, contacts both from the Republic of Afghanistan and from the USSR. The contacts are held in a coordinated manner, which is not an unexpected thing to us. These measures are taken in order to seek peaceful ways toward solving the Afghanistan situation and for the observation of the Geneva Accords. The government will provide the necessary facilities and assistance to reach this goal.

It must be stated, of course, that in establishing contacts with the leaders of the seven-party alliance, specific measures were taken in the past, and this will also continue in the future. I have offiically made a report to the PDPA Central Committee Politburo which was approved and supported the establishment of contacts with the opposition. This measure is not only in conformity with the policy of government of the Republic of Afghanistan. Other members of the PDPA political alliance have similar stands on the need for such contacts.

[Question] As far as we know the Republic of Afghanistan, in addition to ensuring contacts with the opposition outside of the country, has also taken certain steps to improve dialogue with the commanders inside the country. Are there any developments in this regard?

[Answer] With the declaration of the national reconciliation policy, we organized a series of contacts in a comprehensively complex way, with the opposition both inside and outside the country. We have achieved certain results in this sphere. During the process of ensuring contacts, Afghanistan has always expressed its readiness, with manifest good will, to end the war and fratricide and to sit down at the negotiation table, the logical and legal foundation of which has been created objectively in the form of the Geneva Accords.

Fortunately, a positive reply has been received from some of them, and negotiation, consultation, and even practical cooperation has begun. On the other hand, the heads of the armed opposition groups have not yet made clear their stand on our peaceful initiatives and proposals. We will be forced, as the country's internal and external situation demand and as required by the factor of time, to make the necessary decisions.

In the continuation of these contacts, responsible Afghan officials have contacted Ahmad Shah Masud through various channels and have sent officials letters to him. The letters to Ahmad Shah Masud proposed various solutions, without any precondition, in connection with the need to hold direct talks and dialogue and to end the war and bloodshed. We are still awaiting his reply and proposals.

We hope that the process of ensuring contacts with the commanders of armed groups inside the country will soon bring specific results.

Foreign Ministry on USSR-Rebel Talks
LD0312065488 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0433 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 2 BAKHTAR—The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan proceedings from its peaceful course as well as its initiatives and proposals aimed at ensurance of durable peace and ending fratricidal war in Afghanistan, supports the holding of talks of Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister and ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of that country to Afghanistan with Burhanuddin Rabbani representative of the Afghan opposition forces based in Peshawar, on Dec. 3, 1988 at the invitation of the government of Saudi Arabia and consider it as a step of seeking ways for the solution of Afghan issues.

The talk which takes place with the previous agreement of the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan is a part of ways for peaceful solution of internal issues of Afghanistan. These talks can pave the way for starting dialogue between Afghans. With the objective analysis of socio-economic and political situation of the country and deep realization of the pains emanated from a long-war in Afghanistan as well as the realization of existing complicated and critical military-political situation.

The leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan believes that finding a way out of this complicated situation can only be sought in a constructive dialgoue and negotiations. Based on this realistic political course as well as high interest of the people of Afghanistan we reject that the issue be solved militarily.

Our repeated peaceful measures and proposals for reaching this goal have been reflected in national reconciliation policy.

In the light of the objective analysis of present situation in the country and fulfilment of the policy of national reconciliation a series of measures such as general amnesty and release of prisoners, providing of vast facilities for the return of refugees back home, promulgation of decrees on the restoration of returnees properties, creation of local organs of state power and administration with coalition characteristics at the level of some provinces, districts and sub-districts, elimination of the power monopoly by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and invitation of all parties and different organisations for talks, dialogue and practical cooperation for the ensurance of peace, endorsement of political parties law, adoption of the constitution of Afghanistan, signing of the Geneva Accords, establishing of national assembly and preparation for the creation of a broad-based coalition government embodying the interests of all sides concerned were adopted.

In this respect, we can recall the recent proposals of the President of the Republic of Afghanistan, Najibullah aimed at starting dialogue with the opposition in Mecca and convening of an international conference under the auspices of the UN for the fixing of neutrality and demilitarisation of Afghanistan, all these measures are clear and honest manifestation of good will of the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan for unconditional talks and dialogue with the armed opposition.

On one hand, under the present day circumstances the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union strictly observe the Geneva Accords. On the other hand these meetings and talks are another practical step taken by the leadership of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union for the cessation of war and bloodshed as well as ensurance of peace and security in Afghanistan.

Meeting Between Yuliy Vorontsov, Rabbani Viewed
LD0512061788 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0442 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 4, BAKHTAR—The meeting of Yuliy Vorontsov, the Soviet first deputy foreign minister and the USSR ambassador to Afghanistan with Burhanuddin Rabbani, representative of the opposition armed groups based in Peshawar which began on Dec. 3, at the invitation of the Government of Saudi Arabia has received widespread attention of the people of Afghanistan and that of the world.

The meeting, in the one hand, makes clear that the efforts made by the Republic of Afghanistan, RA, aimed at securing peace and stability and on the other hand paves the grounds for the beginning of inter-Afghan dialogue. The meeting which takes place due to earlier accord of the RA is a logical consequence of the policy of national reconciliation and is a part of the peaceful endeavours of the Afghan leadership for seeking solution to the situation around Afghanistan.

Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, in his recent interview with a BAKHTAR reporter stipulated that the meeting is actually the result of the earlier contacts made by the state authorities with the leaders of the armed groups, which have been established either through the RA or through the Soviet channels. The president reiterated that the objectives of such efforts were to find peaceful ways for the solution of the situation around Afghanistan and cessation of fratricidal war.

Apart from establishing contacts with the opponents outside the country, the RA has been contacting the commanders of the armed groups inside the country. In all such contacts, the leadership of Afghanistan has expressed its goodwill for ending war and bloodshed and has shown its readiness for sitting around a negotiating table for constructive dialogue which constitutes the basis and content of Geneva accords.

Such meetings are undoubtedly the outcome of the peaceful initiatives of the Republic of Afghanistan and that of the Soviet Union. If the opposition side shows realism and goodwill peace shall be restored in our region soon.

Mujahidin To Demand War Reparations From Moscow
BK0312135088 Hong Kong AFP in English
1320 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 3 (AFP)—Afghan mujahidin leaders will demand payment of war damages from the Soviet Union at their first direct parleys opening Sunday [4 December] in city Al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, the seven-party resistance alliance said Saturday.

In a communique issued on the eve of the substantive talks, the Afghan rebel alliance said the guerrillas agreed to the talks when the Soviet Union approached them through a United Nations envoy here.

"We agreed to the talks because we are facing the Soviet Union and not the puppet regime in Kabul in our struggle in Afghanistan," it said, adding that the rebels proposed that discussions be held in Saudi Arabia because two of Islam's holiest shrines are located there.

"Direct talks between mujahidin and the Soviet Union will mean the failure of the Geneva accords," the communique said, referring to an April 14 agreement envisaging a phased nine-month withdrawal of more than 100,000 Red Army troops from Afghanistan to be completed by February 15.

Mujahidin groups were not party to the peace accords between Islamabad and Kabul.

The rebel delegation, led by Burhanuddin Rabbani, chief of the alliance, arrived in Jeddah Saturday. Its members include Sibghatullah Mujadeddi, chief of the moderate National Liberation Front of Afghanistan, 'Abdul Qadir Karyab of Hezb-e Eslami and two field commanders, Muhammed Ayub and Muhammed Eshaq.

The Soviet delegation is led by Yuliy Vorontsov, first deputy foreign minister and Moscow's envoy to Afghanistan. "We do not recognize him as ambassador to Kabul," the rebel statement said.

Releasing an agenda, the alliance said, "We will ask for total and immediate withdrawal of the Soviet troops and payment of war reparation."

The rebel delegation will also demand urgent removal of mines from areas controlled by Soviet forces and provision of mine maps for areas taken by the mujahidin.

The rebel communique said, "We will also ask the Soviet Union to end its interference in Afghanistan and stop sending arms to their puppet regime in Kabul, though we believe these weapons would ultimately become mujahidin's booty."

The rebels vowed to continue the "jihad (holy war) until an Islamic government was established according to the aspirations of our nation."

The alliance also expressed gratitude to Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, the rest of the Islamic world and all friendly countries for supporting the guerrillas' nine-year-old "just struggle for liberty and independence."

Renewing the resistance's offer of a general amnesty to Kabul regime officials if they decide to "repent," it announced that the mujahidin government would rebuild the country "in a spirit of forbearance and steadfastness."

Pakistani 'Adviser' Said Killed in Chamkani Area
LD0212163288 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Citing an Armed Forces spokesman, BAKHTAR's military section reported that the country's Armed Forces inflicted crushing blows on armed extremists yesterday and today in order to restore peace and calm.

The Armed Forces carried out a mopping-up operqation in Kameh district and in the environs of Nangarhar Province. A number of warmongering extremists were killed or injured. The Armed Forces seized 60 surface-to-surface missiles, 60 mortar shells, 100 kg of explosives, and 100 boxes of ammunition for various weapons. Two surface-to-surface missile launchers, three DShKs, one mortar, one recoilless gun, one ammunition cache, and two enemy hideouts were destroyed.

With residents' cooperation the country's armed forces have also inflicted crushing blows on the armed extremists in Seyyed Karam, Zarmal, and Chamkani Districts and in the environs of Gardeyz city, as a result of which dozens of them were crushed.

During this mopping-up operation, one DShK, three Chinese Kalashnikovs, two rocket launchers, one radio set, and antipersonnel mines were seized by the Armed Forces. Also destroyed were an enemy weapon and ammunition convoy, including eight horses, and an enemy rocket unit.

Heavy losses were also inflicted on the enemy in the environs of Takhteh Pol and (Baba Kotal), Qandahar Province. One enemy rocket unit and three hideouts were destroyed.

According to another report, a Pakistani adviser was killed as he attempted to plant mines in Chamkani region. Two other Pakistani advisers were also seriously injured in the blast.

The armed extremists, supported by the United States and Pakistan, once again clashed in Kabul, Laghman, and Kapisa Provinces. They were fighting over the distribution of property plundered from the people. The warring factions suffered loss of life: 10 men from the extremists groups were killed and 13 others were injured.

Arab, American 'Advisers' 'Crushed' in Paktia

LD0412180488 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Quoting responsible sources in the Armed Forces, BAKHTAR reports: As a result of crushing blows by the Armed Forces on extremists centers in Nangarhar Province, 18 warmongers were crushed. A rocket launcher, three mortars, a recoilless gun, an ammunition depot, and five enemy hideouts were destroyed. A rocket launcher, a communication system, and thousands of rounds of various types of ammunition were seized.

As a result of the Armed Forces' activities around (Rohdad) District, 10 extremists were crushed including 2 of their ringleaders (Ashnaghar) and (Tor Pashah).

Another report says that 17 highway robbers belonging to extremist groups who wanted to plunder our compatriots' properties and belongings were crushed by security forces in the region of (Tang-e Abrashum). Also as a result of Armed Forces' activities in Konduz Province, 20 warmongering extremists were arrested and their weapons seized in Deh-e Salah, Khanabad District.

Eight criminal extremists were crushed and 12 injured in an operation in (Angor Bagh), Konduz Province.

In Zarmal District, Paktia Province, 25 destructive extremist elements, including 2 Arab and American advisers, were crushed by the Armed Forces. A [word indistinct] and 43 various weapons belonging to the enemy were destroyed.

The BAKHTAR military section adds that recently bloody clashes took place between extremist group members in Mohammad Agha District, Lowgar Province; Qal'eh-ye Sarkari District, Samangan Province; and Khan Abad District, Konduz Province. The report adds that 36 members of hostile groups were killed and dozens injured in these clashes.

According to another report, warmongering extremist elements launched 123 surface-to-surface missiles at the residential areas of Gardeyz and another 12 at residential areas in Konduz Province. Four compatriots in Gardeyz were martyred, and 11 people were wounded in Konduz, including 2 children.

UN Group Receives 134th, 135th Violations Notes

LD0212081588 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 1, BAKHTAR—The 134th and the 135th notices of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan on the flagrant violation from the provisions of the Geneva accords by Pakistan was submitted here today to the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan, reports the liaison office of the Foreign Affairs Ministry with the UNGOMAP.

The notices give precise information on the nature, place and date of the violations and human and material losses caused by the violations. The notices ask the UNGOMAP to investigate the violations according to the seventh item of the document four of the Geneva agreements and inform the authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan and the representative of the UN secretary general of (?its results).

Military Allegedly Conscripting Prisoners

BK0312023388 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that people continue to be conscripted into the Kabul regime's forces. More than 30,000 people were recently conscripted from various places of the country.

Reports say that 40,000 prisoners were released from various jails in Afghanistan and conscripted into the Army. The conscripts are being kept under the command of the Kabul regime forces. Most of them have been deployed to protect the security posts around cities and towns from mujahidin attacks.

Sharq Congratulates New Pakistani Prime Minister

LD0312174488 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Afghan Prime Minister Muhammad Hasan Sharq has sent a message of congratulations to Her Excellency Benazir Bhutto in Islamabad on her election as prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Paksitan:

I would like to cordially convey my warm congratulations on your election as prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, which is the result of a long struggle for the restoration of democracy among your people. I am confident at relations between our two Islamic countries will improve under Your Excellency's leadership through the full implementation of the Geneva accords, which lays a confident and equal rights foundation for them.

May I take this opportunity to wish Your Excellency health and success in the fulfillment of this great job.

India

Minister on 'Positive Signs' in Pakistan Ties

BK0512075688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] The information and broadcasting minister, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat, says that there have been positive signs in the India-Pakistan relations after Ms Benazir Bhutto took over as the prime minister. Inaugurating a discussion in New Delhi today on restoration of democracy in Pakistan and regional stability, he said India is looking forward to build strong ties with Islamabad in the future.

He described Ms Benazir Bhutto's rejection of a no-war pact proposed by General Ziaul Haq as a first step toward removing irritants between the two countries. Mr Bhagat said her views on the Simla Agreement are positive and will help further enhance bilateral ties.

1 Arrested in Pakistani 'Spy Ring' Probe

BK0212164088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Delhi police today arrested one Abdul Wahid Dahelvi in connection with the spy ring involving the Pakistani military attache, Brigadier Z.I. Abbasi. The chief metropolitan magistrate remanded him to 14 days police custody.

Admiral Comments on Pakistani 'Naval Expansion'

BK0212141088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1312 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 2 (AFP)—India's Navy chief on Friday [2 December] vowed to meet what he said was a naval expansion by Pakistan and announced a series of measures aimed at boosting the country's blue water capability.

Admiral J.G. Nadkarni told reporters here that Islamabad's naval buildup had been noted "and measures are afoot to offset these dangers so that no threat to the country's security develops."

He said recent acquisitions by neighbouring Pakistan, which has fought three wars with India, included long-range maritime aircraft capable of launching anti-ship missiles.

Pakistan was also set to receive three long-range maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine aircraft, besides six frigates which he said it had already got from the United States and Britain. "The Indian Navy will not be found wanting to these threats," he added.

Adm. Nadkarni was speaking on the same day as Benazir Bhutto was sworn in as Pakistan's new prime minister.

The admiral described as the Indian Navy's "hallmark" operations this year in Sri Lanka, where New Delhi is fighting Tamil guerrillas, and the Maldives, where India helped crush a bloody coup attempt last month.

He said final stages of negotiations had been reached with two foreign shipyards, which he did not name, for producing an indigenously-designed aircraft carrier in India's southern port city of Cochin.

India would also keep its options open on acquiring more nuclear submarines, he said.

India earlier this year joined the world's nuclear naval powers by leasing its first nuclear-powered submarine from the Soviet Union, and has made it clear that it aims to build up its naval strength in the Indian Ocean.

Adm. Nadkarni, speaking on the occasion of India's Navy Week, said plans were also underway to build a next generation of warships within the country and that "several smaller ships" were under construction. A new naval base, naval academy and naval air base were also on the way, he said.

The naval chief said the lack of landing ship helicopters was noticed in both Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

"If we had possessed this type of warship which can carry armed troops as well as helicopters to give them air cover, it would have been a boon for shore-sea operations," he said.

Last year India bought two attack submarines from West Germany and a second aircraft carrier from Britain and analysts expect a progressive increase in naval spending which now accounts for 13 per cent of the military budget.

Government 'Not Aware' of PRC Airspace Violation

BK0212161588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] An official spokesman said in New Delhi this evening that the government is not aware of any violation of Chinese airspace by Indian aircraft.

Replying to queries by newsmen, he said representations have been received from the Chinese Government on this and these are being discussed with them.

Replying to a question, he said these representations do not amount to lodging a protest.

Iran

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon

LD0212192788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Second Friday prayers sermon delivered by President 'Ali Khamene'i on 2 December at Tehran University—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] The main part of my discussion today concerns two topics: One is the Constitution. We are celebrating the anniversary of the Constitution. On 2 December 1979, the constitutional referendum was held. Tomorrow is Constitution Day, the anniversary of the day the constitution was approved and announced. [passage omitted]

However, his holiness the imam, may his shadow lengthen, has stressed in his remarks this year the importance of the Constitution. I think it is also fitting for me to emphasize the point and tell the people and the officials that the Constitution is the framework of our revolution. The Constitution is the embodiment and manifestation of the revolution. Those who say that they wish to assist the revolution, that they wish to support the revolution, that they like the revolution, should regard the Constitution as the revolution's embodiment. It does not make sense to oppose and confront the Constitution in the name of the revolution. The Constitution is the framework of our revolution.

I do not claim that our Constitution is free of defect. No, it has certain defects, but some day, God willing, they will be corrected. Man's work cannot be free from defect. Of course, the laws embodied in our Constitution and its main principles are in some cases unprecedented and in other cases have few precedents in the world. They are excellent. In the part regarding the country's administration, relating to the executive and the judiciary, there are, of course, certain difficulties, certain vague points. However, these will be corrected some day. Yet, despite its faults, the Constitution is the axis of the revolution.

At times, the Constitution creates certain difficulties. In other words, the implementation of the Constitution sometimes gives rise to certain difficulties that are either due to the observance of the Constitution or to the fact that the Constitution has not prevented those difficulties, or has not proposed a solution to those difficulties. What is to be done in such cases?

In those cases when society is faced with a certain difficulty not foreseen by the constitution, it is up to the country's leadership and society's leaders to propose a solution—especially in our Constitution, where the chief jurisconsult is above the law, even above the Constitution, and the validity of the Constitution rests upon his signature and approval. When the chief jurisconsult signed the Constitution it became valid because the Islamic government and Islamic system are based on the Koran, and traditions that are embodied in the chief jurisconsult's decrees. He is that exalted individual who has been accepted and chosen by the masses, and who guides society down its main and essential path.

On those occasions when the Constitution has not made provisions to solve a difficulty, the chief jurisconsult should remove the deadlock, clear the path—such as the issue we faced in the committee for deciding what is right. In a certain case the Majles had approved a bill, then the Council of Guardians found a certain difficulty in that bill and returned it to the Majles. This bill was not approved, was left hanging in the air. Such cases need to be arbitrated. This deadlock should be broken.

We cannot force the Majles and say that it should legislate in one way but not in another. We cannot force the Council of Guardians members to change their religious views. What is the solution if an issue is deadlocked between the Majles and the Council of Guardians? The Constitution has not defined the solution; it has not foreseen the problem. In such a case, the chief jurisconsult creates an assembly, an organization, a foundation, appoints a body, and says that the difficulty will be resolved through this body. This is not contrary to the Constitution. It augments and reinforces the Constitution.

Regarding the definition of the country's policies, the Constitution does not clearly stipulate where these policies are to be defined.

In view of my position, in which I constantly come in contact with the Constitution and because my responsibility is to deal with constitutional issues—the president is responsible for protecting and implementing the Constitution—for a number of years I have studied, worked, and investigated the issue of which authority is regarded in the Constitution as the policymaking body [markaz-e siasatgozari]. It is not clear. Neither the president, nor the government, nor the Majles has been appointed as the center in charge of defining the country's policies.

In socialist countries and single party states, and in countries with multiparty systems, the party defines policy. In countries that are governed by Western democracies, the person who wishes to lead announces his policies in advance. For instance, if someone is a candidate for the Presidency he says: This is my defense budget policy, this is how I will deal with certain countries, this is my economic policy, this is my cultural policy. The people hear his policies and vote for them. The main policies of the country are defined by the president or head of that system.

In our society this is not the case. We do not have such a policymaking authority. The Constitution does not specify such an authority. Policies cannot be confused and contradictory. We need a source of authority as well as a center, an assembly, an organization appointed to

define the country's policies, either generally or in individual cases. This is complementary to the Constitution. It is not contrary to the Constitution.

When I stress the need to respect the Constitution I am referring to those cases when the Constitution is not respected by officials, individuals, and high ranking or low ranking responsible officials. This is when we sense danger, when we issue warnings and draw the people's attention to the fact that the Constitution must be observed.

In this connection, I request those responsible for the country's political agenda to help to safeguard the Constitution, to value the Constitution. The Constitution is a great national asset, is very valuable, and should be protected. If it is ignored and if the Constitution is disregarded and violated, the social order will certainly be disrupted. This is the first issue.

The next issue concerns Palestine and Lebanon. As far as Palestine is concerned, I will discuss it later in Arabic so that our Arab brothers can hear it officially from the Islamic Republic. However, I will tell you, dear compatriot brothers and sisters, that what occurred at the Algerian conference was unprecedented in the past 40 years of Palestinian history. The Palestinian movement and resistance has undergone many stages. Before 1967 the Palestinian issue was political, the struggle was political, there was no armed struggle except in minor inconsequential areas.

Following the defeat of the Arabs by the Israelis, the 1965 [as heard] attack by France, Britain, and Israel against the Suez Canal and Egypt completely weakened the spirit of resistance, and everyone was pessimistic. There was a political struggle, but no proper or true resistance. After 1967 a very powerful armed movement began. There were several clashes between the Palestinian youth and the Israelis that created a ray of hope, and the PLO and Palestinian movement took form. [passage omitted]

Today, 40 years since the formation of the usurping regime, a group got together in Algeria and on behalf of the Palestinian people accepted the existence of the Government of Israel. This is Resolution No 242. The UN Security Council Resolution No 242 states that all governments of the region, including Israel, have a right to exist and that nobody has the right to attack them. So these people have accepted that resolution. Accepted it in return for what? In return for nothing! In their view, what they have accepted as the price of this great damage and its achievement is the formation of the independent Palestinian state in the Gaza Strip and other parts that are called the occupied territories.

We consider all of Palestine occupied and what these people call territories taken after 1967 as the occupied territories. They supposedly have formed a government, a government that neither Israel nor its supporter the United States has officially recognized. Even if it has been accepted, it is only one-quarter or one-fifth the size of Israel. They have given three-quarters of the Palestinian homeland to the Israelis on behalf of the people of Palestine and have kept one-quarter for themselves, and even that is only in words, not in reality. Even if they were given the one-quarter and invited to form a government, they still did not have the right to give the rest to the usurping enemy.

What right do they have to do this? How can they get together and give a part of the Islamic homeland, an Islamic country that belongs to all Muslims and particularly to the Palestinian nation, to the usurping enemy, one whose hands are stained with the blood of the thousands of Palestinian men, women, and children they have massacred. This great treachery has occurred. Our brother, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, has already dicussed this from this platform and I reaffirm his statement that this was an immense and unprecedented act of treachery. I state here and now that neither we nor our nation, zealous Muslim nations, nor the Palestinian nation accept this. [crowd chants]

Meshkini Supports Khamene'i on Constitution

LD0312175388 Tehran IRNA in English 1659 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 3, IRNA—Head of the Experts Assembly Ayatollah 'Ali Meshkini has called for changes in the Constitution—the second leading official to call for such a move that supporters say is necessary to make the nearly ten-year-old document more effective.

"With the end of the imposed war and the improvement of the economy and along with the reconstruction of the country some points of the Constitution should be rethought," the ayatollah said.

He said the Constitution was "the best" compared to those in other countries, especially because it observed the interests of the people more than the others did.

"It is necessary that the people take a careful look at the Constitution," he said in Qom's Friday Prayers.

The same day President Khamene'i said in his sermon in Tehran that the Constitution should be reformed one day in order to overcome and clarify "problems and ambiguities."

The High Council in Charge of Matters of Expedience which has not been called for by the Constitution "confirmed and complements" the Constitution because it ruled on unsettled differences between the Majles and the Council of Guardians, the president said.

Neither the president nor Ayatollah Meshkini proposed any date for a debate on the reforms.

The daily ETTELA'AT meanwhile commented Saturday that the distribution of authority in the Constitution was such that "it left nothing in a vacuum." It added that "undoubtedly in organizational matters and in some cases related to authorities and responsibilities there have been questions and ambiguities."

However the paper thought differently about Khamene'i's view about the Constitution's "defect" in not specifying a clear policymaking authority.

For instance the president who heads the executive branch might have some proposals on economic, political or cultural matters. Article 127 of the Constitution gives him the authority to call the cabinet and present the proposals which need cabinet approval for implementation, it added.

"The Constitution may have shortcomings but we must try to benefit from all its qualities and advantages and to strengthen and stablize the state by implementing the Constitution," the paper said.

Roundtable Examines Khomeyni's Reply to Ansari

LD0412164088 [Editorial Report] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 0933 GMT on 4 December broadcasts a 27-minute recording of a roundtable discussion organized by the University of Tehran law faculty concerning Ayatollah Khomeyni's reply to a letter from Hojjat ol-Eslam Ansari on the need for unity between the country's two political tendencies. The roundtable is led by an unidentified moderator with the following participants, identified as: 'Asgar-Oladi, Montajabnia, and Dr Najafqoli Habibi. The date and place of the roundtable are not specified.

Iranian media have labeled Khomeyni's response to Ansari's letter the "Charter of the Brotherhood." In response to the moderators' request, each participant spends about 20 minutes expressing his view on the "charter".

In reply, Montajabnia sums up the five main points in Khomeyni's letter. The first point, he notes, is that Khomeyni is calling for a cultural revolution. Khomeyni stresses that religious seminaries and jurisprudents should discuss issues of jurisprudence in a way that reduces the differences between their theory and implementation to a minimum.

Based on Khomeyni's remarks, Montajabnia says, one can conclude that both political tendencies in Iran are in favor of Islam; however, there are differences of opinion in the interpretation of Islamic teachings and their implementation. Therefore, Montajabnia notes, more than 20 percent of Khomeyni's reply is devoted to issues so far unresolved by Islamic jurisprudence, some of which have been discussed in seminaries.

Concerning Khomeyni's remarks urging a uniform approach to the superpowers, Montajabnia says the letter notes that some officials take unequal rather than uniform approaches to the superpowers. In his letter, Khomeyni compares the superpowers, not attaching superiority to one over the other, but presenting them both as bloodthirsty regimes with regard to the Islamic revolution.

Khomeyni's third point concerns the economic approach taken by each of the two political tendencies, Montajabnia says. While pointing out that both groups favor an Islamic economy, Khomeyni notes that each has adopted different positions and viewpoints. These differences must also be resolved through the discussion of jurisprudents, religious seminaries, and universities, Khomeyni says.

In his fourth point, Khomeyni recognizes both political tendencies as valid. Montajabnia stresses that in previous remarks, Khomeyni had not clearly stated that both tendencies were acceptable and should exist and have dialogue or that in their dealings with one another they should not try to rule out the other. However, in this "Charter of Brotherhood," Khomeyni accepts both political tendencies and urges them to engage in healthy criticism of one another, which will advance society and be healthy for the groups themselves.

The fifth point covered in Khomeyni's letter, Montajabnia says, is about egotism. He notes that egotism is a very dangerous tendency to which neither of the two political tendencies is immune.

Khomeyni Message to Construction Jihad Seminar

LD0512130988 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 5, IRNA—With a message of Imam Khomeyni a two-day seminar of officials of the Construction Jihad Ministry and its affiliated organisations opened at the ministry here this morning.

The message read by imam's representative to the Construction Jihad Ministry Hojjat ol-Eslam Abdollah Nuri praised the services of the ministry's staff in the course of the Iraqi-imposed war. Imam Khomeyni said in serving the cause of Islam and people, those working for the ministry have set an example of bravery to be followed by others.

Elsewhere in his message the imam said the Construction Jihad Corps should adhere to genuine Islam which he believed would degrade the West led by world devourer U.S. and the East headed by criminal Soviet.

The imam concluded that the country's independence depends on the sincere services of the ministry's staff.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Nuri addressing the seminar stressed fulfillment of the ministry's goals, safeguarding Islamic principles and protecting the principle of neither East nor West.

He called for active and full participation of the corps in country's reconstruction and campaign towards economic self-sufficiency. He also praised the services of the corps in deprived and remote areas.

Khomeyni Receives Families of Martyrs
LD0312111688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Excerpts] According to a Central News Unit report, the families of martyrs, those missing in action, POW's, and the disabled of the Islamic revolution from Khomeynishahr, Khur and (Biyabanak) in Esfahan Province, accompanied by officials from the martyrs foundation in Khomeynishahr as well as that town's deputy in the Islamic Consultative Assembly, a number of families of martyrs from Tehran and the members of the family of the illustrious martyr, Allamah Sayyid 'Arif Husayn Husayni, met with Imam Khomeyni at his residence in Jamaran. [passage omitted]

At the end of this meeting, the imam of the ummah responded to the emotions expressed by those present.

Musavi Briefs Montazeri on Current Issues
LD0212204988 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Qom, Dec. 2, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi who is here to attend a commemoration ceremony in honor of martyred 'ulema, met the future leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri Friday. In the meeting Musavi briefed the ayatollah on the current issues of the country.

Majles Deputies Urge Guidance From Montazeri
LD0412144688 Tehran IRNA in English 1429 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 4, IRNA—More than 100 Majles representatives have called on Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, the future leader of Iran, to continue his guidances on national affairs and made a strong call to officials to implement them.

"It is evident that the new condition of the country requires that you, more than ever, provide us and all officials and sectors of the nation with your magnanimous guidances," said a letter signed by 117 representatives.

They renewed their support for and allegiance to Imam Khomeyni and urged all officials to carry out Ayatollah Montazeri's "frank and compassionate advice with determination and precision."

Guardians Council Approves Most Election Results
LD0312180288 Tehran IRNA in English 1734 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 3, IRNA—The Council of Guardians has approved the results of recent Majles by-elections in five constituencies and rejected in one.

The council which had observers in each of the 16 constituencies in the October 29 by-elections, did not approve the outcome in Khurhesht, Lorestan Province, and declared it null and void.

But the 12-member watchdog [council] cleared the results in Jiroft (Kerman Province), Boien Zahra [placename as received] Zanjan, Lenjan (Esfahan), Golpayegan and Khvonsar (Esfahan) and Gorgan (Mazandaran).

The council had previously approved the outcome in other by-election constituencies.

Khamene'i Says No 'Iron Curtain' Policy
LD0312183188 Tehran IRNA in English 1706 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 3, IRNA—The Islamic Republic does not intend to live behind an iron curtain, but favours friendly political and economic ties with most world states, remarked President 'Ali Khamene'i today.

"Our Muslim people should be confident of standing up to the big powers. When big powers see our people's iron resistance, they will gradually be forced to get along with the Islamic revolution," added the hojjat ol-eslam.

A nation unable to meet its agricultural requirements cannot claim to be independent, Khamene'i concluded.

Iraq Spreading 'Lies' on Human Rights 'Violations'
LD0212125488 Tehran IRNA in English 1223 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] London, Dec. 2, IRNA—The General Assembly is now due to vote on what is seen as a deliberate attempt to discredit the Islamic Republic following a report submitted by the UN's Third Committee, alleging human rights violations.

The allegations stem from claims primarily made by the Iranian Mojahedin-e Khalq terrorist group, based in Iraq, to draw attention from publicity about Baghdad's widespread use of chemical weapons.

According to the London FINANCIAL TIMES Friday, the report was submitted to the Third Committee by representative from El Salvador, Galindo Pohl.

But the committee was disallowed from taking up an Iranian offer to investigate the accusation on the spot by moves from Britain and nine other European countries, among others.

Iran's permanent representative at the UN, Mohammad Ja'far Mahallati has already criticized The Netherlands, Belgium and Portugal for their role in initiating what he called an unjust resolution against. [sentence as received]

The envoy further referred to the fact that the report rested on lies spread by the Baghdad-based terrorist group and called upon the UN to pay attention to real human rights issues around the globe free of illegitmate political ambitions.

The orchestrated campaign against Iran comes as the Iraqi regime is seen with its back to the wall following damning evidence of its massive gas attacks against the Kurds, but which the UN is thought to be trying to avoid.

Economic Minister To Depart for Moscow 4 Dec

LD0312175088 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 3, IRNA—The economic and financial affairs minister will lead a high-ranking eco-political delegation to Moscow on Sunday for the 11th meeting of the joint permanent commission for economic cooperation.

Mohammad Javad Iravani in an interview with IRNA here today, said talks at the meeting would centre on expansion of collaboration in the Esfahan steel mill, joint exploitation of border rivers, dam construction, and export of Iran's natural gas to the Soviet Union.

He said, Iran-Soviet cooperation is based on non-interference in each other's affairs, good neighborliness and peaceful co-existance.

Besides holding talks with his Soviet counterpart Nikolay Konarev Iravani would also confer with a number of other Soviet officials including the chairman of the Council of Ministers Nikolay Ryzhkov and Minister of Foreign Affairs Eduard Shevardnadze.

He said he would also convey a written message from Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi for his Soviet counterpart, Ryzhkov.

'Wider Cooperation' Envisioned

LD0412125188 Tehran IRNA in English 1238 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 4, IRNA—Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani, heading a high level delegation, departed for Moscow Sunday to participate in the 11th session of the Joint Economic Cooperation Commission.

Iravani will also deliver a message from Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi for his Soviet counterpart Nikolay Ryzhkov.

Wider cooperation in steel production, power generation, railways, utilization of border rivers, construction of dams, and resumption of natural gas exports to the Soviet Union would be on the agenda.

The two countries would sign an economic protocol at the end of the negotiations, Iravani said.

Iran's exports to the Soviet Union totalled dlrs 140 million last year while it imported dlrs 75 million worth of Soviet goods.

The Iranian delegation includes high ranking officials from the ministries of foreign affairs, economics and finance, energy, roads and transport, mines and metals, Construction Jihad, and the heads of the state fisheries and steel company [as received].

The top-level talks in Moscow follow a number of meetings between Iranian and Soviet experts on ways to increase economic ties and cooperation. Tehran and Moscow take turns in hosting the annual joint economic commission meet.

The two countries have a long history of cooperation in steel production at the Esfahan mill which was built with Soviet assistance.

Iran, in addition to existing and planned steel projects, is interested in raising its capacity to meet high demand during the reconstruction period.

Natural gas exports which was halted after the revolution over a price dispute would also be discussed. The issue has been revived in recent years and several plans unveiled but no official date has been agreed to reopen the pipeline.

PRC Trade Delegation Arrives 2 Dec

LD0312092588 Tehran IRNA in English 0917 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 3, IRNA—A six-member Chinese delegation headed by Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade Wulanmulon arrived here Friday [2 December] morning. The delegation is to discuss with Iranian officials barter trade between the two counties and implementation of agreements made under the Tehran-Beijing economic commission.

British Embassy Reopens in Tehran 4 Dec

LD0412110888 Tehran IRNA in English 1056 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 4, IRNA—The British Embassy was reopened in Tehran after eight years Sunday following an agreement last month to restore full diplomatic relations.

The "Union Jack" was hoisted over the premises in the center of the city in a ceremony to officially turn over responsibility from Swedish diplomats who had looked after British interests.

Charge d'Affaires Gordon Pirie said Britain was pleased that it once again had a diplomatic presence in Iran and expressed hope that the two countries would cooperate in various fields.

Relations between the two countries sharply declined following the Islamic revolution when Britain closed its embassy soon after the takeover of the American Embassy in November 1979 by revolutionary students.

Last year relations came close to breaking point when an Iranian diplomat was arrested in England. It sparked off a series of swift tit-for-tat actions and reduced the number of diplomats in each capital to just one.

But contacts resumed this spring when a Church of England delegation consisting of members of Parliament visited Tehran. At the same time Foreign Ministry officials began normalization talks in London, Geneva and Vienna that resulted in an agreement to restore full relations.

Pirie, 53, on his third assignment to Iran in 20 years, said the two countries would exchange ambassadors next year.

Nabavi Returns From Tripoli, Ankara Visits

LD0312060788 Tehran IRNA in English 0558 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 3, IRNA—Minister of Heavy Industries Behzad Nabavi returned home Friday night following a visit to Libya where he attended the first session of Tehran-Tripoli Economic Commission and a brief stop at Ankara on his way to Tehran.

In Tripoli Nabavi signed a new economic agreement which calls for cooperation in the fields of industries, oil, trade, agriculture and communications.

Nabavi who arrived in Ankara Friday morning submitted a letter from Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi to his Turkish counterpart Turgut Ozal.

In Ankara Nabavi was asked by reporters to comment on the relationship between the two countries. He said that the ties were too strong to be effected by any development.

On expulsion of two Iranian diplomats from Turkey and its effect on bilateral relations he said that promotion of economic relations will help solve other problems.

In a meeting with Turkish Minister of State Adnan Kahveci, Nabavi discussed bilateral economic relations and cooperation within the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO).

KEYHAN Assesses Relations With Saudi Arabia

NC0312140088 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 19 Nov 88 pp 2, 20

[Unattributed political commentary]

[Excerpts] The repeated utterances by the Saudis regarding resuming diplomatic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran—at a time when the smell of the blood of the dear Iranians is still coming from the streets of Mecca—has confronted Iran with the question of whether to accept or reject this request, which is based on certain motives.

In a situation in which the Egyptian regime is embroiled in domestic and foreign problems and Syria is entangled in complicated problems in Lebanon, the Saudis are endeavoring to expand their sphere of influence in Iran and Iraq so that they can tilt the regional balance in their favor. Even though Iran has just emerged from a difficult conflict and is faced with a special situation, it is nevertheless a power to be reckoned with, occupying a unique strategic position. In addition, in view of its Islamic revolution's nature, it can be considered the sole enemy of the Hejaz regime in the region.

Therefore, the forging of relations between Riyadh and Tehran can be interpreted as a logical response by the Hejaz regime to capitalize on the Islamic Republic's position. On the other hand, the West is hoping to use the levers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and then Oman and others in order to pave the way for controlling and wielding influence in the region. [passage omitted]

There is no doubt that Saudi Arabia is the instrument of Washington's policy in the region and that it is endeavoring to iron out its political difficulties in the region by using its wealthy groups to pander to the whims of Western interests. The question that arises is: With its record of black deeds in the past decade against the Islamic revolution, including moral and material factors culminating in severing relations with Iran, what does it seek in resuming relations?

What can be gleaned from the atmosphere currently prevailing is that contrary to present circumstances which have created a climate of mitigated tension, a plot is being hatched by those who wish to topple the pillars of the resistance of the Islamic nation of Iran and to disgrace the Islamic Republic of Iran on the political, ideological, and cultural scene. [passage omitted]

There is no doubt that expanding relations is an essential part of international existence, but this must be done by keeping in mind the principles of the Islamic revolution and with an acceptance of the concomitant effects which such relations will have; that is, how decisive they are and what form or manner they will assume. Therefore, it cannot be done merely on the pretext of expanding relations, merely to emerge from isolation, or on the basis of need and so on.

Also, according to the consensus of opinion prevailing in the international community, mass genocide of a country's citizens [in Mecca] is in itself an unpleasant phenomenon instrumental in marring relations between two or more countries. This can result in a spirit of continued hostility and severance of relations for years to come. [passage omitted]

These joint efforts of the West and Hejaz, despite a considerable mellowing on the part of Riyadh, are based on projecting an image that it is far more powerful than it might appear. This is being conveyed by the initiatives to reduce oil prices, by mediation in peace talks, and by normalization of relations, so that Iran "will inevitably give a positive response to the green light" from the Saudis.

Another aspect of this is that by adopting a strategy of prolonging the peace talks between Iran and Iraq, it emerges that the West wishes to resolve its differences with the Islamic Republic of Iran in the current circumstances and in this pressured atmosphere. Therefore, by prolonging the peace talks—although this is ostensibly done by Iraq—as a warning ploy as evidence of hostility, and by coaxing Iran into entering the level of the political relations between the West and the Arab reactionaries, it is lobbying for greater concessions. [passage omitted]

The Saudis must pay a huge price for their crimes. The removal of the ban on Iranians' entry to the house of God or similar measures are only a fraction of that price which they have to pay for their request to resume relations with Iran to be accepted. The vicissitudes of the first decade of the Islamic revolution have proven that despite all the opposition by East and West and its grappling with domestic problems, the "neither East nor West" system will continue in its quest for a new era.

Musavi Notes 'Trust' in Ties With FRG

LD0512091788 Hamburg DPA in German 0803 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, (DPA/VWD)—The Islamic government in Tehran sees "a political foundation of trust" in relations with the Federal Republic. This was stated by Iranian Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi on Monday in Tehran during a 30-minute conversation with Federal Construction Minister Oscar Schneider (CSU) [Christian Social Union]. Schneider is in Tehran for several days at the invitation of the Iranian construction minister.

After the talks, Schneider said that the Iranian leadership expressly thanks the Bonn government for its positive attitude before and during the Gulf war, and in bringing about the cease-fire with Iraq. On this basis, it should become possible for German firms to assist with the construction of cement plants and in the building materials field, as well as with training. Nothing has been said as yet about financing.

Musavi Congratulates Pakistan's Bhutto

LD0312111888 Tehran IRNA in English 1047 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 3, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi congratulated Benazir Bhutto and the people of Pakistan on Bhutto's appointment as prime minister. In a message Saturday to his Pakistani counterpart, Musavi hoped that relations between the two countries would strengthen and expand.

Bhutto was sworn in as prime minister of Pakistan on Friday, making her the first woman to lead a Muslim country.

The Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, along with Turkey, are members of the Economic cooperation Organization and Tehran-Islamabad ties have steadily grown since the Islamic revolution.

Velayati Congratulates Pakistani Counterpart

LD0412173988 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 4, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today congratulated Sahabzada Yaqub Khan on his re-appointment as foreign minister in the new Pakistani cabinet.

Velayati's message expressed hope that fraternal ties between the two neighbouring Muslim countries, which he said have religious, cultural and historical roots, would expand further.

Yaqub Khan who served as foreign minister under late President Ziaul Haq was reinstated in his post by Pakistan's new Premier Benazir Bhutto.

Lebanese Muslim Leader Meets Sheykh ol-Eslam

LD0312144088 Tehran IRNA in English 1435 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 3, IRNA—Vice-chairman of Lebanon's high Shi'ite Council Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din held talks Saturday with Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam on the issue of unity between Muslim forces in Lebanon. The two also discussed other Lebanese issues in view of recent developments. Shaykh Shams al-Din arrived Friday.

Holds Talks With Velayati

LD0312182488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, the deputy head of the Lebanese Shi'ite Supreme Council, arrived in Tehran last night and was met by Mr Besharati, the Iranian deputy minister of foreign affairs. The Central News Unit reports that Shaykh Shams al-Din met with Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam, the deputy minister of foreign affairs for

Arab and African countries. They discussed and exchanged views on the latest developments in Lebanon and the efforts to unify the Islamic forces.

Shaykh Muhammad Shams al-Din also met Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati this evening and discussed current Lebanese issues, Muslim unity, and ways of continuing the anti-Zionist struggle in southern Lebanon. In this meeting, Mr Velayati stressed the necessity for unity among Lebanese Muslims and called for abstaining from any action that might lead to disunity among Muslim revolutionaries.

He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran considers the preservation of unity as the only code of success for Lebanese Muslims, and a means of attaining their rights in the face of the common enemies and vis-a-vis the imperialist and Zionist conspiracies. Iran stands beside the Lebanese Muslims, and in the past Islamic revolutionaries have clearly enjoyed the fruit of such actions throughout their anti-Zionist struggles.

Palestine National Council Member Interviewed

NC0312145988 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 20 Nov 88 p 16

[Interview with PNC member Munir Shafiq by unidentified KEYHAN correspondent in Algiers; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Correspondent] What are your views on the relations between Iran and the Palestinian revolution?

[Shafiq] Our relations were very cordial in the first few years of the revolution, but this is no longer the case. In my opinion, the Palestinian issue is no longer a top priority of the Islamic revolution.

[Correspondent] Do you not think that certain factors could have contributed to the cooling down of relations between the Islamic revolution and the PLO, for example the Iran-Iraq war and....

[Shafiq] No, no. In my opinion this is not the reason.

[Correspondent] The support given to Iraq by some of the PLO members has also played a part, don't you think?

[Shafiq] This has no connection with the issue. I will not discuss Iranian-Palestinian relations. The issue relates once again to the planning and classification of your priorities and what should be your top priority. You had always said that Palestine is your topmost priority, but its importance for you seems to have waned and you have become a bit cold toward the Palestinian issue. You do not give the Palestinian question a top priority, not even as third on your list of priorities. Your ties with Syria are your second priority and your ties with Lebanon, your third priority. Ties with Palestine come after these.

[Correspondent] What are your suggestions for expanding ties with Palestine?

[Shafiq] I feel that you should return to your previous policy dating back to the years 1978-80. You should follow the exhortations of His Eminence Ayatollah Montazeri from that period. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Benazir Bhutto Addresses Nation 2 Dec

BK0212173288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1425 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Address by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to the nation 2 December—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the most beneficent and merciful. My brothers, sisters, elders, youths, friends: Peace be upon you. Congratulations to you. Congratulations on your success and your victory. This is not the success of the Pakistan People's Party. The outcome of the elections is the success of the entire nation, and I offer congratulations to you on this success.

Today you have awarded your sister a very great honor and have placed a very big responsibility on her. I will do whatever I can to discharge this responsibility. In this task the workers of the Pakistan People's Party, who are used to making sacrifices, will help the government. We will accept help from all those who participated in the struggle for democracy and restoration of the 1973 Constitution.

However, the the real fountainhead of our power is the people. We are from among you. Your difficulty is our difficulty. Your honor is our honor, and your happiness is our happiness. We are proud of you. You have elected a government which has support in all the four provinces. In this capacity, it will be able to give even handed care to the whole nation and its interests.

We are marching ahead on the journey toward a progressive Pakistan, a democratic Pakistan, and an exploitation-free Pakistan. Our journey began 20 years ago, when martyr Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto formed a party for the protection of the rights of the uneducated class and the downtrodden people. When the former dictatorial rule divided the country in 1971, he saved this country and infused the people with strength, and this protected the country.

Today, once again we must march ahead to strengthen our country. The nation will become strong whenever the people become strong. The people will become strong whenever we are able give full attention to their needs. Our message is one of hope, unity, peace, independence, and progress. There is no doubt the situation is grave; we are facing a very great challenge, but we are not afraid of challenges.

It is correct to say that the domestic policies followed during the past 11 and ½ years were designed to perpetuate personal authority. These policies have inflicted a number of wounds on our society and their healing was marred by linguistic, racial, and communal differences. The short-sighted foreign policy has created dangers around us unnecessarily. Economic policies based on incorrect thinking have wasted the wealth of our natural resources and our manpower. And our whole economic system is on the brink of bankruptcy. We are standing on the verge of destruction.

However, today the entire race is ready to turn its helplessness into a constructive quest. Our sacrifices, struggles, floggings, death cells, and our brushes with death did not go in vain. These trials strengthened our determination. We will heal the wounds. We will overcome the difficulties with humility and reconciliation. We will adopt the path of love. We will end starvation and indignity. We will provide the homeless with shelter. We will give employment to the unemployed. We will make everyone literate. We will not tolerate unjustified affluence on one side and poverty on the other.

It is our belief that Pakistan was founded to survive forever, and it possesses all the capabilities necessary for a strong and prosperous nation. At the time of the establishment of Pakistan, Qaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had reflected the aspirations of the Muslim people when he said that Pakistan will progress and rise as a modern state. The working classes had expected that the new state would provide them with social justice, would rid them of all kinds of exploitation freeing them from the yoke of feudalism, and would give them new opportunities through a new socioeconomic system; and the people will be partners in the affairs of the state.

The history of Pakistan is the history of the unflinching struggle of the people, which they had been waging against the arbitrary actions of a privileged ruling class. During the past 40 years, they had endured hardships three times under ruthless rulers. They have seen four constitutions cancelled and suspended, and have fought four wars. The root of this crisis is found in oppression. The crisis was between the people and the state. Only a sensitive, democratic government can create a spirit in the people that can remove the imbalance in our socioeconomic structure.

At a time when the nation is beginning a new era and determining its position in the current epoch-making period, we clearly recall the words of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, the martyr, who stated: As we rely on the people, we should go to the people only. If this is the right path, we should not become part of a situation which goes against the interests of the people. On this occasion, I want to pay tribute to the people and their bold spirit, to our martyrs, and to those who sacrificed their freedom, happiness, vocations, and the welfare of their families in order to help us live an independent, democratic, honorable, and a hopeful life.

In the history of mankind, probably very few nations have waged such a great struggle for the restoration of democracy. Our people endured hardships in search for democracy, but they have always remained steadfast in their resolve. They have proved to the world that if a nation takes a vow not to rest until it achieves what it wants, it can never fail. We want to live in this type of Pakistan.

It is a great honor for the Pakistan People's Party that it has the opportunity to serve the people through this office of enormous responsibility. We are confident that the brave people of our country will come forward and strengthen our hands. These elections are the victory of our people and our nation; the victory of independence, hope and expectation, equality, and justice. The elections have brought a message for the elimination of poverty, enmity, revenge, and conflicts and confrontations.

I cannot but praise the people from all walks of life who participated in this great democratic process. This should obviously open the eyes of those who were harboring doubts that our people were neither eligible for democracy nor could they express their ability for it.

Our objective is to consistently strive for the supremacy of the great Islamic principles of brotherhood, equality, and tolerance, and restraint. We will, God willing, create an atmosphere of peace and stability in the society to unite the nation and to foster a sense of national honor on the basis of justice and equality. And we will protect the life, property, and honor of every citizen, irrespective of his party affiliation or ideology, irrespective of his religion, community or race, whether man or woman. We pray to God that He might bless us with the determination to move forward on the right path.

We will try to provide equal economic status to all citizens and protection of all aspects of human rights so that 1973 Constitution and parliamentary system are restored in the country, the sense of deprivation is eliminated, and the state's foundations are strengthened. People are our invaluable resources. We will utilize to the maximum our national and human resources to realize our goal of making the economy self-sufficient. We will not allow human and natural resources to be wasted in any way. We will encourage the medium-sized sectors to eliminate poverty. We will guarantee the people's prosperity through investment promotion and transfer of technology.

We believe that provincial autonomy will prove fruitful only when the people are vested with political and economic rights. This will create greater confidence among the people, leading to the federation's stability. We will adopt a new and healthier approach toward mutual relations between the Center and the provinces in order to avoid friction [between the federation units

and the Center] resulting from a sense of deprivation, which has intensified in the last 11 and ½ years and has also created a sense of alienation.

We not only believe in the traditional solution of transferring powers from the Center to the provincial governments, but we are committed to such a transfer of power whereby the people have a sense of powersharing at all levels. Instead of one province being in conflict with another or with the Center, we will try to find a solution which will blend varying viewpoints.

The foundations of a democratic system lie in the freedom of expression. God willing, our long struggle will be crowned with success. We will abrogate all rules and regulations prejudicial to freedom of the press so that the press in Pakistan is free. We will dissolve the National Press Trust. We will give autonomy to radio and television so that they can fully serve the people.

The Pakistan People's Party will ensure that the media's credibility is restored and that it gains the people's confidence in order to freely supply correct information to the people and practice healthy journalism. The framework of press advice [preceding two words in English] will be ended.

We are determined to provide employment guarantees and honor and dignity to the media workers. Their rights will be protected to ensure achieving this end, and their work environment and compensation regulations will be improved.

We will honorably rehabilitate all those who suffered losses during the struggle for the restoration of democracy and will give them appropriate compensation. We will construct memorials to the martyrs of democracy and eternal flames will be lit to immortalize the names of those martyrs who gave their lives for democracy while fighting in the historic war against excesses and atrocities, so that the nation remains conscientiously alive.

Here, I want to say something about political prisoners. Ever since last evening when the Pakistani president announced the nomination of the parliamentary leader of the Pakistan People's Party, your sister [for the office of prime minister], our lawyers have been in contact with the Law Ministry. I hope that they will as soon as possible give some decision regarding political prisoners. We have to take everything into consideration. I wish to order today the immediate opening of the prison doors, but we are being told about one amendment that is impeding this.

I want to tell my political prisoner brothers that no obstacle can come between our path and your path. Your freedom is very important for the country. You have sacrificed your freedom and happiness for the country, and we will find the way through which you will come out of the prison doors honorably, with heads high, after breaking the shackles. From tomorrow the Law Ministry will be the people's Law Ministry, and this Law Ministry will very soon, within a few days, make a positive decision about political prisoners.

It is the viewpoint of the Pakistan People's Party that it is the government's responsibility to provide protection to the people from excesses and exploitation. Now, nobody will be able to exploit the workers. Forced labor will not be permitted. We will revise the current minimum wages. We are committed to bring all labor laws in conformity with the provisions of the ILO.

Minorities are our sacred trust. We pledge to provide protection to all minorities.

Agricultural production of cash crops has been badly affected due to floods. Wheat production will be 3 million tonnes less. This will also affect our exports. This uncertain situation caused by natural calamity has affected the agriculture as well as industrial sector.

We still do not know about the conditions accepted by the former government while taking heavy foreign loans. However, at the same time we want to say that whatever difficulties the economy is facing, we believe that the country has enough resources which if properly utilized will lead to progress. It is our belief that if cash is not wasted in bribery and does not end up in the pockets of evil people's but is used for the protection of the poor, workers, and weaker sections, then a much better situation will be created.

The Pakistan People's Party gives high priority to a highly trained, equipped, and inspired defense forces. We consider the country's territorial integrity and its defense as a sacred trust.

We pledge to provide modern medical facilities to every citizen. For this objective we will frame a comprehensive national health plan. We will soon announce our policy in this sector to fulfill the pledge given in our election manifesto.

Education is the foundation of a forward-looking society. The illiteracy rate in our country is very high. We want to open the doors of education for our youth. We want to provide employment to our educated youth so that their skills are not wasted due to unemployment, and they are utilized for the benefit of the country and the nation instead. It is our aim to bring the standard of higher education up to the international level. We will establish a national education fund as soon as possible.

The student unions have been banned for the past few years. If you look at the situation at colleges and universities, you will see that students possess guns along with their books. This is the effect of dictatorship, which had no respect for laws; hence, the people all over the country also did not respect the laws. When the government was being run by the power of guns, our youth also got the idea that real power came from guns and not from law.

In this context, we have seen that our colleges and universities, where our youths are educated, do not always provide the right atmosphere to strengthen the doors [as heard] of education.

We think that one of the reasons for this problem is the ban on the student unions. A ban on student unions means a ban on their expression of thoughts, tolerance, debate, and discussions. When student unions are allowed to function and when students can raise their voices in favor of their problems politically, their attention toward the guns gradually wanes.

The Pakistan People's Party government is therefore restoring student unions with immediate effect, and, at the same time, the restriction imposed on labor unions is also being withdrawn and the labor unions are also restored. As for the government employees and workers who have been retrenched for political reasons and for taking political revenge, the government will review all those cases and, God willing, there too you will see justice.

In order to follow a successful foreign policy, it is necessary that the nation has clear objectives and the entire nation is unanimous in the pursuit of this objective. We desire regional peace on the basis of respect for justice and equal rights. We want to strengthen our relations with the United States. We want to have better relations with the Soviet Union. We are aware of our Islamic heritage and we will support the equality and rights of the Third World, including the cause of our Palestinian brethren, which we have considered and will always continue to consider a just cause, our own cause.

At the end of this month, the prime minister of our neighboring country India is coming to Pakistan. I hope that our elected governments will be able to reduce the tension existing between our two countries and establish ties on the basis of justice and equality.

We are proud of the Pakistani women who bravely participated in the war of independence without being afraid of the bullets, who along with their children endured atrocities in the infamous Lahore Fort but did not lose heart.

We will cancel all those laws prejudicial to the rights of women. Women will enjoy the right to work; they will be able to freely choose employment for themselves. They will be provided with just and suitable working conditions. They will be entitled to equal remunerations for equal work. Besides this, they will also enjoy maternity leave with pay. We will bring about reforms concerning women in accordance with the current socioeconomic realities.

My brothers, elders, and friends. This long struggle has not been a comfortable time for party workers, the people, and our nation. However, it was a struggle for the restoration of democracy. It has reached its goal with the strength of the people. The doors of Parliament were closed; the Constitution was considered simply as a book and was torn up. All these things brought great problems to the country. Now we hope that that time has ended.

Life does not change suddenly. But, at times, when we take part in a struggle to change life, we feel that it takes a long time. We need patience also. Therefore, we have asked people to be courageous during these past 11 years. Patience yields sweet fruits. Every one of us should undertake the struggle for upholding truth. If tomorrow the Pakistani People's Party or I commit a mistake, I expect my brothers and sisters to come forward and point out that mistake. Hence, without criticism, discussions, and debates, correct policies cannot be framed.

When you bestowed us with this honor and I went to Parliament to take the oath, the people gathered there shouted the slogan "Bhutto lives." People never forget the person who serves his nation. What is this money? What is this bribery? We are proud that we live in a Muslim country. We should take strength from our religion. We should serve our brothers and sisters. If we do not think about what the government can give us, and if we think what we can provide to our country, and if we give priority to the nation and people, then no power can stop us.

I am your sister, and I am with you and will be with you always. This power is not a great thing. The greatest thing is the respect in the eyes of the people. The People's Party and I will make efforts to serve you and always find respect in your eyes.

Finally, I would like to salute to the Pakistani president and the chiefs of the Armed Forces, as they have utilized all their energy for the restoration of democracy after the 17 August incidents. When the enemies of democracy tried to postpone the elections, despite all the pressures, they took the country to the goal of democracy. Now it is the duty of every one of us who live in Pakistan and love this country to work unitedly and make efforts to provide everyone with the opportunity to lead an honorable life.

Thank you. Long live Pakistan.

Holds First News Conference

BK0212094088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0926 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Rawalpindi, Pakistan, Dec 3 (AFP)—Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said Saturday [3 December] she would maintain Pakistan's present policy on Afghanistan under the Geneva accords and called for a representative government in Kabul.

Ms. Bhutto, addressing her first press conference since being sworn in Friday, said she was retaining Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, a main architect of the April [Geneva] accords under late President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, as foreign minister. "We desire a continuity in foreign relations," she said.

She said she would observe the U.N.-brokered Geneva accords signed by Islamabad and Kabul to pave the way for a Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan.

"We have stressed a continuity of this policy which we believe would result in establishing a representative government in Afghanistan," said Ms. Bhutto, the first woman premier of a Moslem country.

Pakistan has been a key supporter of the Afghan resistance since the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in December 1979.

She said she realized Mr. Yaqub Khan, a retired Army general, was a member of the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI), the main rivals of her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) in last month's general elections. But she added "there are many patriots in the IJI" who could join the PPP. "Sahabzada Yaqub Khan is handling the country's foreign policy and we have decided to retain him," she said.

Ms. Bhutto also named Lahore jurist Aitzaz Ahsan as law minister. She was expected to announce the rest of her government later.

After her swearing-in Friday, Ms. Bhutto pledged to pursue a "dynamic foreign policy" to develop mutually beneficial ties with the superpowers, the Islamic world and Pakistan's neighbors.

She also announced the lifting of a ban on trade unions and pledged to free political prisoners.

Explains Foreign Policy Goals

BK0312112988 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mrs Benazir Bhutto, has said national unity on the basis of Islamic brotherhood, emergence of national cohesion and identity, economic growth, and closing the gap between the rich and the poor would be the main goals of her government's policy. She was addressing her first news conference in Rawalpindi today after assumption of office of the prime minister.

The prime minister pointed out that the country's economy was close to bankruptcy and that loans had been obtained and agreements made on different conditions. They had inherited a difficult situation but they were prepared to meet the challenge. She said her government would welcome foreign investment in the country to help economic growth. In fact, some of the ambassadors she had met so far had shown interest in this regard.

The prime minister said the strength of the nation comes from the people and this depends on the socioeconomic welfare of the people, as well as improvement in their health, education, and nutrition.

She also explained the broad outlines of her government's foreign policy. The prime minister said her government valued the country's relationship with the United States and appreciated Washington's moral support for the restoration of democracy. She said they were also looking forward to developing better relations with their great neighbor, the Soviet Union.

The prime minister said Pakistan had traditional relations with China and their links existed on the political level and even beyond. She pointed out that it was the former prime minister, Mr Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto who had charted Pakistan's relations with China and said they would further develop these relations.

Referring to India, the prime minister said she was looking toward her meeting with her Indian counterpart, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, at the end of this month. She expressed the hope that the democratically elected leaders of the two countries would find a way to defuse tension in the region.

On Afghanistan, Mrs Benazir Bhutto said her government would maintain continuity in the present policy. She expressed the hope that the Soviet forces would complete their withdrawal by February next as stipulated in the Geneva accords signed earlier this year. She also hoped that a government reflecting the aspirations of people of Afghanistan would be installed in that country so that the 3 million refugees, now in Pakistan, could be able to return home.

She hinted at the possibility of asking the outgoing foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, to stay on in her government.

The prime minister disclosed that she had advised the president to commute or remit the sentences of various categories of political prisoners. She said several hundred prisoners would benefit from the action.

Armed Forces Chiefs Call on Prime Minister

BK0312082988 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] The chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Admiral Iftikhar Ahmad Sirohey; the chief of the Army Staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg; the naval chief, Vice Admiral Yasturul Haq; and the air chief, Air Chief Marshal Hakimullah, called on the prime minister, Mrs

Benazir Bhutto, in Rawalpindi this morning. They extended their greetings to her on assuming the office of prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Earlier, the prime minister inspected a guard of honor at the prime minister's Secretariat. It was presented by a contingent drawn from the three services. Radio Pakistan's representative says the ceremony marks the formal shifting of the prime minister to her office where she would be working from today.

People's Party Member Elected Assembly Speaker

BK0312153888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Pakistan People's Party's member Malik Mairaj Khalid was elected the speaker of the National Assembly this evening. He received 134 votes, while Sheikh Bashir Ahmad of the Islamic Democratic Alliance got 72 votes. The chief election commissioner, Justice S.A. Nusrat, who chaired the session, administered the oath of office to the new speaker. The election of a deputy speaker is also being held today. [passage omitted]

New Federal Cabinet Ministers Sworn In 4 Dec

BK0412083888 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] The new Federal Cabinet was sworn in in Islamabad today. There are 10 ministers. They are:

Mr Mukhtar Ahmad Awan: labor, manpower, and overseas Pakistanis;

Mr Aitzaz Ahsan: interior and law and justice;

Makhdoom Amin Fahim: communications;

Agha Tariq Khan: culture and tourism;

Rao Sikandar Iqbal: food, agriculture, and cooperatives;

Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat: commerce and local government and rural development;

Syed Amir Hyder Kazmi: health, special education, and social welfare;

Mr Jahangir Badar: housing and works and science and technology;

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan: foreign affairs;

Mr Mohammad Hanif Khan: states, frontier regions, and Kashmir affairs.

There are seven ministers of state. They are:

Colonel, retired, Ghulam Sarwar Cheema: defense;

Mr Mir Baz Mohammad Khan: culture and tourism;

Raja Shahid Zafar: production;

Mr Javed Jabbar: information and broadcasting;

Khwaja Ahmad Tariq Rahim: parliamentary affairs;

Khan Bahadur Khan: religious affairs and minority affairs;

Mr Ahsanul Haq Piracha: finance.

There are three advisers with the rank and status of federal ministers. They are:

Rao Abdur Rashid Khan: establishment;

Mr V.A. Jaffery: finance, economic affairs, and planning and development;

Mr Iqbal Akhund: national coordination and security.

Major General, retired, Nasirullah Khan Babar will be the special assistant to the prime minister with the rank and status of federal minister.

Mr Yahya Bakhtiar will be attorney general.

Mr Khalid Ahmad Khan will be the officer on special duty for cabinet affairs with the rank and status of minister of state.

The oath of office was administered by the president, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, at a simple but impressive ceremony at Aiwan-i Sadr [Presidency] in the presence of Prime Minister Mrs Benazir Bhutto. The ceremony was attended by the acting chairman of the Senate, Syed Fazal Agha; the speaker of National Assembly, Malik Mairaj Khalid; the chief justice of Supreme Court, Mr Justice Mohammad Haleem; the chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee; the service chiefs; and senior civil and military officials.

The ceremony was followed by a special prayer for the success of the new government and progress, unity, and integrity of the country.

Bhutto Presides Over First Cabinet Session 4 Dec

BK0412151688 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 4 Nov 88

[Text] The first session of the new Federal Cabinet was held in Islamabad today. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto presided over the session.

Giving details to newsmen later, the minister of state for information and broadcasting, Javed Jabbar, said the Cabinet discussed the aspects of the current situation facing the country, including the economic situation and budget issue. In this connection, major problems were

determined and their various aspects were discussed. He said the unemployment problem and the need to find an effective way to solve it were specially considered. The sacking of thousands of workers during the tenure of the previous government also came under discussion, and it was felt that a review must be made to provide justice to those who were unjustly dismissed.

The Cabinet held a detailed discussion on the condition and release of political prisoners with reference to the prime minister's speech. They said the prime minister is specially concerned about the immediate release of political prisoners, as thousands of families are deeply concerned with this.

The Cabinet discussed the status of those ordinances promulgated after 31 May this year without the consultation of the prime minister. A review will be made within a few days as to which ordinances among them need to be continued in the public interest. The Cabinet will subsequently review the situation.

Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan informed the Cabinet about the preparations for the summit meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, which will be held in Islamabad at the end of this month. Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi will also visit Pakistan on this occasion.

At the beginning of the session, the prime minister congratulated the members of her Cabinet for participating in the government and expressed the hope that the new members will work in close cooperation with the policies enshrined in the Pakistan People's Party's charter and in the implementation of the programs, which will be finalized later.

Mr Javed Jabbar said that in form and character, the new Cabinet comprises persons of various capabilities—including professional experts and technocrats—who have engaged in bold political struggle in the past 11 years. The Cabinet includes Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, who has been serving the nation with great wisdom and sagacity for the past 6 years.

Further on Cabinet Meeting

BK0412165088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Excerpts] The first meeting of the new federal Cabinet was held in Islamabad today with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in the chair. Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Javed Jabbar later told newsmen that the Cabinet discussed various aspects of the current situation facing the country, including the economic situation and the budget. [passage omitted]

Javed Jabbar said the new government faces challenges, but it has the political determination to make decisions and to learn from experience. He described the formation of the new cabinet as a historic event in the 31-year history of the country. The new cabinet, he said, has come into being after an 11-year struggle for democracy and party-based elections. He said the new cabinet represents the new generation and the members included in it are young, but they are very well aware of the invaluable merits of independence.

Replying to a question, Javed Jabbar categorically stated that the dissolution of the National Press Trust tops the list of priorities in the Pakistan People's Party charter.

Answering yet another question, the minister of state for information and broadcasting said the government wants to see the radio and television enjoy autonomy in professional matters and that the unnecessary and unhealthy control imposed on them by the previous government are lessened. He categorically stated that he himself, the prime minister, and the government are determined to lessen government's (?control) on Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation and Pakistan Television. He said the government is considering the possibility of providing due representation to the viewpoints of the opposition party. The prime minister does not want to see the official media give undue publicity to personalities.

Later, the Cabinet prayed for the salvation of the soul of the late prime minister, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto.

President Stays Execution of Death Sentences

BK0412153788 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] The president has stayed the execution of death sentences until further orders. As already stated, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has suggested the president to grant remission of sentences to political prisoners, and those convicted by military and other courts.

Yaqub Khan Sees No Basic Change in Foreign Policy

BK0512022688 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub has said that for the time being there will not be any basic change in Pakistan's foreign policy, particularly regarding Afghanistan.

Talking to newsmen in Islamabad yesterday, he said he will fully strive to improve regional atmosphere in light of the guiding principles mentioned by Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto.

Nomination Papers Filed for Ishaq Khan

BK0512160588 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Nomination papers for the presidential election will be received by the returning officers in Islamabad and presiding officers in all the four provincial capitals until 1200 noon [0700 GMT] tomorrow. Chief election commissioner Justice S.A. Nusrat, who is the returning

officer, will scrutinize the papers on Thursday [8 December] at 1000 in the morning. The nominations can be withdrawn until 1200 noon on Saturday. The final list of candidates will be published at 1300 on the same day. Polling will be held in the Parliament house in Islamabad and in the provincial assembly buildings in all the four provincial capitals on 12 December.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has signed the nomination paper and expressed his consent to participate in the elections. This nomination paper was submitted to him by a group of senators representing all the provinces.

Sharif Assails Bhutto's Remarks as 'Baseless'

BK0512015488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1832 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 4 (AFP)—he leader of Pakistan's largest right-wing group Sunday rejected as "baseless" Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's allegations about vote rigging in last month's elections.

Nawaz Sharif, leader of the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) and chief minister of Pakistan's largest province of Punjab, criticised Ms Bhutto's allegations about selective rigging in Punjab and disputed election results in her home province Sind.

Mr. Sharif, who defeated Ms Bhutto's nominee as chief minister in Punjab, said her charges were misleading and offered re-polling in the constituencies of her choice.

In a statement carried by the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP), Mr. Sharif "regretted" that Ms Bhutto, co-chairperson of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), had made "baseless allegations" against his administration in a press conference in nearby Rawalpindi Saturday.

In his first direct attack, Mr. Sharif, who had been IJI candidate for the premiership said: "In the larger interest of the country and democracy she (Ms Bhutto) should have adopted a positive attitude and risen above regional and party considerations so as to create a congenial atmosphere for managing national affairs."

Ms Bhutto said selective rigging in Punjab denied her party a chance of winning more than 100 of the 240 seats. She also charged that plans were made in advance that she would be humbled by 2,200 votes from her Lahore seat.

The IJI leader said "under the supervision of the judiciary, polls were free, fair and impartial in all respects and the fairness of elections was highly appreciated" abroad.

"If Ms Benazir Bhutto insisted that polls in some constituencies were not fair we are prepared for re-polling in those constituencies," he said.

In what was seen as the first sign of confrontation he countered that "the administration and polling staff openly supported PPP in Sind and defeat of some IJI stalwarts in such constituencies from where they were repeatedly returning in the past was undeniable evidence of this fact."

IJI's president and several top leaders in Sind lost to PPP candidates in the November 16 elections. "We practiced patience and tolerance and avoided voicing against rigging in Sind in the larger national interest and in the interest of the revival of democracy," he said.

Mr. Sharif said his Pakistan Muslim League (PML), which ruled under late President Mohammed Ziaul Haq and is the pivotal group in the IJI, believed in "decency, tolerance and fair play" in politics.

He said there was complete industrial peace in Punjab with trade unions and that political freedom ensured by his PML government could be judged from the PPP processions, public meetings and rallies held after Ms Bhutto's return to Pakistan in 1986.

He expressed the hope that all elected representatives of the people would refrain from accusing others and help in providing "a congenial atmosphere in the country."

About his election and PPP criticism of voting by show of hands in Punjab, Mr. Sharif said "the elected members of the provincial assembly had expressed their will" and resisted "all sorts of pressures and attractions" from rivals.

The statement said that "151 members of the provincial assembly voted for him after the nomination of Ms Bhutto as prime minister which was evidence of the commitment of a convincing majority of members to the manifestos of PML and the IJI."

In a separate statement, PML secretary general and a former Federal Minister Iqbal Ahmed Khan criticised the prime minister for denouncing the no-war pact with India, APP said. "In her enthusiaism to seek cordial relations with India, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto should not [word indistinct] from the national stand on the Kashmir dispute," he said. He cautioned Ms Bhutto to deal with other foreign issues with utmost restraint in a statesmanlike manner.

The no-war pact was offered to India by the late Gen. Ziaul Haq after India charged that a U.S. decision to supply to Pakistan arms and F-16 aircraft would endanger its security.

Mr. Khan said: "It was no longer a secret now that Ms Benazir Bhutto has become prime minister of Pakistan with the blessings of the United States of America."

He called on Ms Bhutto "not to accept the hegemony of India as has been maneuvered by the U.S. for the past several years" but to carry on the independent foreign policy not subservient to any foreign pressure or expediency.

15 Injured in Clash Between Party Supporters
BK0512032488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] In Pakistan, 15 people were injured seriously in a clash between activists of the Pakistan People's Party and Islamic Democratic Alliance in Multan. Police had to use tear gas to disperse the warring parties.

Curfew Lifted in Karachi Areas 4 Dec
BK0412085288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] The curfew in the remaining curfew-bound areas of Karachi was lifted from 0400 [2300 GMT] this morning. An official announcement issued in Karachi yesterday evening says this decision was taken on the orders of Sind Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah. However, the announcement says the security posts and patrols by law enforcement agencies will continue in various areas to assist the civil administration.

Kabul Charges of U.S. Arms Shipments 'Baseless'
BK0512013688 Hong Kong AFP in English 1756 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 4 (AFP)—Pakistan Sunday rejected as "baseless" allegations by Kabul authorities that a U.S. naval ship recently delivered long-range heavy weapons to Pakistan, official sources said.

The Afghan regime had charged that a shipment of Soccur-40 long-range cannons would be delivered to "anti-revolutionaries" for use against Afghanistan.

Kabul also alleged that Afghan pilots were being trained by Americans in the use of jet aircraft at Bahawalpur Base, east of Islamabad. The aircraft would be handed over to guerrillas by the United States after the capture of eastern Jalalabad city, Kabul regime media said.

The Foreign Office informed the Afghan charge d'affaires that "the Afghan allegations had been investigated and were found to be baseless," and asked the Kabul authorities "to desist from making such fictitious allegations," the sources said.

Sri Lanka

President Orders Parliament Dissolved, Elections
BK0312122688 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1120 GMT 3 Dec 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 3 (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lankan President J.R. Jaywardene in an address to the nation over Sri Lanka's national television network Rupavahini at 2015 hours (local time) [1445 GMT] tonight announced that he had decided to dissolve parliament on Tuesday, December 20th 1988 after the conclusion of the presidential poll on December 19th and announced that the next general election will be held on 15th February 1989.

Nominations will be called from Friday December 30th 1988 and January 6th 1989.

President Jayewardene also said in his address to the nation that he felt an opportunity should be given to the people to elect a new parliament so that the new president should have the benefit of the views of the present electorate.

The president in his address to the nation said:

The present parliament was elected in July 1977 for 6 years. By a referendum held in December 1982, by 3,141,223 votes as against 2,605,983 votes, the people extended the life of this parliament for 6 years to August 1989. There are 8 more months for this parliament [before it is] to be dissolved.

The presidential election of October 1982 elected me as president to function from February 1983 to February 1989. I received 3,450,811 votes, viz 180,738 votes more than one half of the valid votes polled, which is equal to 52.91 percent. The presidential election should be held before 3rd January 1989, and is now being held on Monday 19th December 1988. It is not legally or constitutionally necessary to hold parliamentary general elections before, after, or at the same time as presidential elections. In no democratic country in the world are these two elections held together.

My connections with the government of my country end when the newly elected president assumes office soon after the announcement of the 19th December election results. My association with elected parliaments and members, both in the government and the opposition too, ends on that date. Need I say that this period extending from April 1943, covering a period of over 45 years, has seen many events of great importance affecting the lives and welfare of my fellow countrymen. I have contributed my share to their happiness. I value especially whatever I have been able to do to preserve the rights of my people to elect their representatives, to point out their mistakes and to replace them through elections, thus preserving the fundamental freedoms of democracy, speaking, writing and opposition. The present parliament contains 143 members of my party out of 168, a five-sixth majority.

From 1977 up to 1982 and the December referendum of that year, the political, economic and constitutional reforms that we introduced changed the life pattern of the people in many ways to their betterment. In development terms, we progressed as much as any country in the world, developed or underdeveloped, and equalled

the development figures of the best. If we had continued in that way, many of the problems that we faced earlier such as unemployment, cost of living, the improvement of living standards, health, housing and edycation, would have been solved to a great extent.

However, since July 1983, terrorism in the northern and eastern provinces and gradually extending to the southern provinces, curbed this development. The northern and eastern terrorism problem continued unabated and grew in intensity until the India-Sri Lanka agreement of July 1987, when all the hostile organisations accepted the agreement and surrendered arms. One of them later broke it. Terrorism in the southern province too began to grow. Development in the whole island suffered immeasurably.

Now the country has the opportunity to elect a new executive government through the presidential election on the 19th. It is left to me now to express my hope that there will be free and fair elections and also to thank the hundreds of thousands who helped me to complete my tasks.

This parliament, which is the legislative authority under our Constitution, has worked with me during these 11 years. Its members have performed their tasks, some in the government and others as members of parliament only. I feel that an opportunity should be given to the people to elect a new parliament so that the new president should have the benefit of the views of the present electorate.

I have therefore decided to dissolve this parliament after the conclusion of the presidential poll, on Tuesday the 20th December by proclamation of that date, and to summon the newly elected parliament to meet on Thursday the 9th day of March 1989. The general election voting will take place on Wednesday the 15th day of February 1989, with nominations being called for between Friday the 30th day of December 1988 and Friday the 6th day of January 1989.

Monks, Opposition Reject Government Election Plan
BK0512094488 Hong Kong AFP in English 0845 GMT 5 Dec 88

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Excerpt] Colombo, Dec 5 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's influential Buddhist leaders on Monday [5 December] joined the opposition in rejecting a government pledge to dismantle parliament only after presidential polls, giving way to fears of a bloody vote.

A leading Buddhist monk, Maduluwawe Sobitha, warned that dissolving parliament after the December 19 presidential vote would lead to "greater problems."

The monk urged President Junius Jayewardene to reconsider his decision, saying all sections of the population wanted presidential elections conducted under a caretaker administration to ensure free and fair polling.

It was the first reaction from the influential Buddhist clergy since the 82-year-old leader announced Saturday that parliament would be dissolved a day after the presidential election and that general elections would staged on February 15.

Another Buddhist monk, Madihe Pannasiha, who originally urged the 11-year-old government to step down in a bid to end political killings, said Mr. Jayewardene's pledge fell short of their request.

"Our request was for the government to dissolve (parliament) before the presidential election. But it has gone unheeded," the monk said.

A political analyst said "there is going to be doubts about the conduct of the election and this certainly will lead to bloodshed. The government has so far failed to convince the people that it will be fair."

The main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) in its first response to the presidential announcement said it was unacceptable to them and charged that the government was still "trying to play games."

SLFP leader and presidential candidate Sirima Bandaranaike charged that the government would give the ruling United National Party (UNP) candidate the benefit of state machinery.

"We want an immediate dissolution of parliament. That is what the mahanayake's (Buddhist leaders), bishops conference, trade unions, students and other professional bodies have asked for.

"The government is still trying to play games. Dissolving on December 20 will help in no way to ensure a free and fair election," Mrs. Bandaranaike told a campaign meeting Sunday.

A Sinhalese militant group, the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front), has been continuing a violent campaign in an attempt to force the government's resignation before presidential polls.

There was no immediate response from the JVP to Mr. Jayewardene's offer, but political analysts say the group is unlikely to give up its struggle as the offer fell short of the group's basic demands. [passage omitted]